**COUNTY COURT JUST WEEKS** FROM CLOSURE

- see page 2

**GAS CAR DRAMA** FOR 'TAKE ME **OUT' TV MAN** 

- see page 5

**DOGNAPPINGS ARE** ON THE RISE, **OWNERS WARNED** 

- see page 8

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# Teacher's joy as boyfriend Greene scoops world



Sprinter Dai Greene with his girlfriend Sian Davies, from Stourbridge

THE STOURBRIDGE girlfriend of World Championship gold medallist Dai Greene has spoken of her pride at the hurdler's success.

Schoolteacher Sian Davies, from Wollaston, has been by Greene's side since they were both members of their university running club in Cardiff five years

ago.

And she watched with pride as he won the first of Britain's two World Championship gold medals with victory in the 400 metres hurdles in Daegu.

Long-distance runner Mo Farah grabbed the second with victory in the 5,000 metres after taking silver in the 10,000m event.

"I was glued to the television watching it — I haven't slept or eaten for a week worrying about it," said 26-year-old Sian, who is living with her parents in Eggington Road while she and Dai carry out work on their new home in

Bath.
"I had to stand in the hallway as I couldn't bear to listen
to all the build-up. I'm so proud of him, and so happy, it
meant so much to him."
Sian has taught at Hawbush Primary School in Brierley
Hill, Gigmill in Norton.



# Local serviceman was leading patrol, inquest told MARINE D **BOMBS SEARCH**



Marine Jonathan Crookes, killed on patrol

ROYAL MARINE from Halesowen was killed while searching for bombs patrolled in Afghanistan.

Charlie Company, from 40 Commando Royal Marines, said Marine Crookes was searching a bomb crater when a second explosion went off.

"We could not see anything. The whole area was covered in dust," he said.

"We could not see anything. The whole area was covered in dust," he said. Halesowen was killed while searching for bombs as he patrolled in Afghanistan, an inquest heard.

Jonathan Crookes, aged 26, had been leading a company of troops through Sangin District in Helmand

The area is one of the most volatile in the  $\,$ 

The area is one of the most volatile in the war-torn country.

An inquest on Tuesday heard that the Marines were less than a mile from their base when an Improvised Explosive Device detonated, injuring three troops, including an American soldier.

ican soldier.
Following the explosion Marine Crookes continued to search for further explosives to find a clear path back to the base for him and his injured comrades on July 16 last year.
Sgt Al Grant, who was troop sergeant for

was covered in dust, ne said.

He added that as the dust settled, Marine
Crookes was seen lying with another comrade,
Lieutenant Corporal Luke Metcalfe.

Attempts were made to rescue the five injured serviceman, including Marine Crookes.

### TRIBUTE

But the reservist died from his injuries, the inquest at Smethwick Coroners' Court was told. Lieutenant Colonel Edward Moorhouse, who was a Major with Charlie Company, paid tribute to Moyine Crowkes to Marine Crookes.

to Marine Crookes.

He said: "If I had 200 Jonny Crookes under my command I would be a very happy man."

Marine Crookes' family, including his mother, Susan, and fiancee, Danni Davis, were at the inquest, which was, led by Black Country coroner Robin Balmain.

The inquest reached a conclusion of unlawful killing.

# get their chance

**Unsigned bands** 

A STOURBRIDGE promoter is giving unsigned bands from across the Black Country the chance to perform at a Dudley pub.

Shaun Roberts, of Stourbridge-based KCS Promotions, is organising a series of rock gigs at the Lamp Tavern in High Street.

Dates for live shows have been booked for September 15, October 6, 20 and 27, November 3, 17 and 24 and December 15. He said: "I have some bands booked already, but I am looking for more."

Last month Mr Roberts, aged 46, of Wollescote, organised a charity gig at the pub in aid of the Sophie Lancaster Foundation which aims to combat prejudice and was set up after her murder in Lancashire in 2007 when dressed as a Goth.

Interested bands should call 07988 070104 or visit www.kcspromotions.moonfruit.com

Charity gig - Page 28

## Villagers hit out at changes

VILLAGERS have spoken out against a controversial £900,000 scheme to over-haul historic Kinver High Street, with most calling for further changes. More than 250 household-

ers have sent in their views on the redevelopment of Kinver High Street. Residents and businesses in the village have complained that the alterations have caused traffic queues along the High Street with trade

caused traffic queues along the High Street with trade plummeting.

Of the 252 letters sent to Kinver Parish Council, 202 criticised chicanes installed along the road.

Some called for them to be removed while others asked for clear priorities to avoid traffic problems.

The parish council said 112 of the letters had complained about parking problems for delivery lorries.

More than 100 of the correspondents also criticised marker posts placed at the entrance to the High Street.

The concrete blocks have speed limit signs on them.

Parish council bosses said 70 of the letters praised the overall layout of the road and 89 had said new kerbs were too high.

The parish council will raise the issues with Staffordshire County out a review and have the final say on any changes.

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STOURBRIDGE Quaker Meeting House will be opening its doors to show off its hidden architectural treasures free of charge at the weekend.

The opening, on Sunday (September 11) between 11.15am and 3pm, is part of a national event run by English Heritage to get organisations to open buildings so members of the public can find out more about them.

about them.
Following an era of religious persecution, Stourbridge Quakers built the Meeting House on Scotts Road in 1689, the first year they could do so without breaking the law.

It is probably the oldest building in Stourbridge town centre still used for its

original purpose. It has been carefully ren-

ovated, with grants from the Historic Churches Preservation Fund, the Warwickshire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust.

### **MEET YOUR REPORTERS**





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### Mountain biker is rescued in Forest

A MAN was at the centre of a two-and-a-half-hour rescue effort after he fell off his mountain bike in the Wyre Forest.

Ambulance crews were called at 7.30pm on Sunday by the man who had gone over the handlebars of his bike and landed in a small brook.

They used a 4x4 vehicle and found him on land between Button Oak and Button Bridge Lane, near Bewdley. He had a lower back injury and a fractured collar bone.

# **County court is weeks** away from shutdown

STOURBRIDGE County Court, which is being shut as part of Government cash cuts, will close its doors for the final time later this month.

The court, which handles bankruptcy cases and civil matters, will close for good on September 30. It is being shut as part of £41 million cost-cutting measures by the Ministry of Justice and it follows a series of other local court closures.

These include Halesowen Magistrates Court which was shut at the end of March and Dudley's County Court.

The Dudley Court, at The Water front in Brierley Hill, also heard Wolverhampton Crown Court cases. Staff from Dudley Courty were transferred to the town's magistrates court which has undergone work to accommodate extra cases. HM Court Service said that there weekend.

The opening of Sunday The Courty Court.

Spokeswoman Zoe Campbell said:

County Court.

Spokeswoman Zoe Campbell said:
"The current headcount for Stourbridge County Court is 3.29 full-time
equivalent.
"All staff from Dudley and Stourbridge county courts are already colocated in the same building.

### Operational

"All of the Stourbridge staff are being transferred to Dudley's head-count and there will be no opera-tional differences as all staff are already dealing with work from both courts."

The public counter at Kidderminster County Court is to close. Ms Campbell said: "There are three full-time equivalent members of staff at

time equivalent members o stant at Kidderminster County Court. "Hearings will be retained at the court but the public counter will close and the administrative work and staff headcount will transfer to Worcester County Court."

Halesowen Magistrates Court has een put up for sale.

## Pub in boost for hospice

A PUB packed in the punters for a fundrais-ing day in aid of Stour-bridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Chris Foxall, landlord Chris roxal, landlord of The Crown in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, has organised the annual event for the past six years. During that time the fun day has raised more than £38,000 for the shart. the charity.

And this year, it is hoped the event will have produced more than £7,000 for the

There was entertainment from an array of local groups, a tombola and barbecue while an auction was conducted by Dudley Council leader Les Jones.

leader Les Jones.

The hospice's fundraising development manager Janet Jones said: "Chris has proved to be a long-standing and committed supporter of Mary Stevens Hospice and we are most grateful to him and to his friends."



Fun for all – fundraiser Dan Haynes, Pete Richards of band The Sounds of Silence, and Mary Stevens Hospice volunteer Karen Shakespeare

### **Spaces** stay for closing car park

THE NUMBER of spaces at a multi-storey car park in Stourbridge will now not be cut in the run-up to its closure, it has

up to its closure, it has emerged.

The 458-space multistorey car park in Bell Street is being knocked down under multi-million pound plans to redevelop the Crown Shopping Centre in the town.

The seven-storey car park, popular with shoppers and visitors to the Crystal Leisure Centre, was originally earmarked for demolition several years ago after a study found £4m would be needed to restore it.

### Bays

Bays

More than 50 spaces have been cordoned off to reduce wear and tear and bosses had suggested more may have to go in the months in the run up to the site's closure.

However, today Council lor Patrick Harley, cabinet member for transportation, said: "Due to the fact that Bell Street car park will be demolished in the near tuture there is not currently a problem.

"It is highly unlikely we

a problem.

"It is highly unlikely we would need to reduce parking bays before the car park closes."

The redevelopment of the Crown Centre will include a new Tesco supermarket. Work is expected to start early next year.

A playing a suplication

A planning application lodged by Tesco this week shows how the supermarket plans to phase the work. The first section will see a

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### Sarah on song for X Factor

A SUPERMARKET worker from the Midlands is hoping to prove she has the X Factor when she appears on the popular TV talent show in the coming weeks.

Twenty-one-year-old Sarah Wills from Kidderminster is thought to have been given a manipuous

Sarah Wills from Kidderminster is thought to have been given a unanimous vote through to boot camp by the show's judges during auditions held in Birmingham earlier this year.

The customer service adviser at the Tesco store in Castle Street, Kidderminster, was the very first contestant to appear before the new panel of judges, made up of Take That star Gary Barlow, Destiny's Child singer Kelly Rowland, N-bubz star Tulisa Contostavlos and Louis Walsh.

The former King Charles I pupil performed the song One Night Only, which seemed to go down very well with the judging panel.

The budding singer, who has worked for Tesco for three years, said: "I have been singing all my life. My favourites are Beyonce, Etta James and Tina Turner."

She added: "Wasterrified before the audition but I

urner. She added:"I was terrified before the audition but I hope it has paid off."

### Jewson tour for cyclists

AKINGSWINFORD cyclist is taking part in a "Tour de France" style charity ride.
Mark Charlton, branch manager designate at builders merchant Jewson in Walsall, is among staff who will be doing stages of the 1,801-mile round trip to branches from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Sponsorship from the "Tour de Jewson" will go to Barnardo's

## Teddy bears picnic proves a hit



MORE THAN 100 youngsters took along their favourite cuddly toy to a popular Dudley attraction for an afternoon out. Staff at the Broadfield House Glass Museum organised a teddy bears' picnic at Broadfield House Glass Museum in the Br gswinford

Families with those under the age of five were able to take along a blanket and their favourite bear for the free event which was

held at the venue on Compton Drive.
Dudley Council spokeswoman Kate
Arnold said: "Bears of all colours, shapes
and sizes were brought to the event, which
included story telling and craft sessions."
The museum currently has an exhibition
entitled Transformations: Furniture in
Glass. It is set to run until February 20 and
features domestic items such as tables and
chairs made of glass. chairs made of glass.















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### thechronicle

### **Payout** won for 'bungled' surgery

MOTHER-OF-TWO from Tipton has won a substantial payout after she lost more than nine pints of blood during a

pints of blood during a Caesarian procedure at Russells Hall Hospital. Naurin Ahmed needed three emergency operations and a hysterectomy, which will leave her unable to have more children. Heruterus was torn while she was giving birth to Muhammed. But the tear went unnoticed by medical staff – and the 43-year-old has now won a settlement from Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

### Nightmare

Mightmare
"The birth of our child should have been one of the happiest days of our life," said the former Sandwell Council designer.
"But it turned into a nightmare." Mrs Ahmed said she had to be treated with morphine for five days.
The bungled procedure, which was carried out in September 2007, left her unable to see her newborn son.

unable to see her newborn son.

Mrs Ahmed's security guard husband, Tamseel, said he thought his wife might die.

"It was the worse moment! have ever been through, the added.

The couple married in 2003 and also have a six-year-old daughter, called Maryam. They plan to use the payout from the trust to try to adopt another child.

The trust said: "Patient safety is the highest priority for the trust and we have reinforced all our procedures."

### Howzat for new cricket pavilion



At the pavilion opening are, from left, club chairman Harilal Patel, MP Margot James club president Keith Jones and the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans

THE RESTORATION of a Stourbridge Cricket Club's historic pavilion has been

completed.

Members of the club secured £33,200 of

Members of the club secured £33,200 of grants to repair the 86-year-old building at its War Memorial Athletic ground.

Dozens of young cricketers use the club each week to practise their skills.

Harilal Patel, chairman of the club which was crowned Worcestershire County League champions this season, said: "It was something that we have wanted to do for the last five years.

"We are pleased everything is now coming together.
"We think that it is these general improvements off the field that have helped us on the field."

Mr Patel joined club president Keith Jones to open the new pavilion on August 30 with guests of honour including Stourbridge MP Margot James and the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans.

A grant of \$26 000 was secured from the

A grant of £26,000 was secured from the Cory Environmental Trust to be used for





# Gas car drama for Гake Me Out man

A BUSY ROAD through West Hagley had to be cordoned off for more than an hour after a fuel cylinder fell from a gas-powered 4x4 vehicle. Startled passers-by and shop workers said the

cylinder was leaking gas from a valve which cracked when it fell off.

courts near its pianned residential development in Halesowen.

Three show homes and a double garage can be built after Barratt Homes was successful in its application on August 30 when the development control committee agreed to follow officers' recommendations and approve the plan.

The homes will help showcase properties on a 70-house site – home to Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club, in Coombs Road. The plans, passed last year, mean moving the sports club half a mile to Coombswood Green Wedge, in Stewarts Road.

A clubhouse, cricket pitch and bowling green will be built at the site in the next

and bowling green will be built at the site in the next few months. A footpath is also being installed.

More than 700 people signed a petition against the plans when they were unveiled but the scheme was approved in 2009.

restricted passers-by and shop workers said the cylinder was leaking gas from a valve which cracked when it fell off.

Pest control worker Christan Hems was driving through the village when it happened on August 30.

The 39-year-old — who appeared on the TV dating show Take Me Out earlier this year—heard a bang and stopped his Mitsubishi Shogun, in Worcester Road, near Hagley railway station. He saw the cylinder thad fallen from the car.

Mr Hems, of Harrison Road, Wordsley, said: "All of a sudden fire engines and police cars were pulling up." Mr Hems said his 4x4 ran of the perfoleum gas. But the adouble garage can be built after Barratt Homes was successful in its application on August 30 when the development control committee agreed to follow officer's recommendations and approve the plan.

The homes will help showcase properties on a 70-house site – home to Coombs Wood Snorts and

leak.

Manager Adrian Lloyd said a 100ft section of road was taped off, and he adding: "The smell was awful."



# Garden building to come down

RESIDENTS have won their fight to get a neighbour to dismantle a wooden outbuilding in the garden of a Dudley home.

Councillors refused to give retrospective planning permission for the 11.5ft high timber building at the rear of a house, Paganel Drive, meaning it must now be taken down. Seven residents had objected to the structure.



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# What's on the menu at city's food festival



Birmingham Food Festival is set to cause a stir at venues and locations across the city for 10 days in October.

Visit Birmingham, the city's leisure tourism programme, has worked with a number of partners to source the perfect ingredients for festival success

Supported by lead sponsor, London Midland, Birmingham Food Fest will celebrate the city's diverse gastronomic



Andy Waters of Edmunds restaurant

Some of Birmingham best loved chefs, including Great British Menu reigning champion and winner of Gordon Ramsay's FWord, Aktar Islam of Lasan Restaurant, Michelin star award-winners Richard Turner, chef patron of Turners of Harborne and Birmingham born and bred Glyn Purnell of Purnell's, will be joined by a number of Chefs. born and bred siyn Purnell or Purnell's, will be joined by a number of Chef's Alliance members including Opus' David Colcombe to showcase their talents to a passionate foodle audience. Rising stars from University College Birmingham will be sharing the secrets



Glynn Purnell will be at the event

rood rest has something to whet all appetites.
Home to more Michelin-starred restaurants than any other English city outside London and a choice of more than 200 places to dine, Birmingham has plently of reasons to be proud of its

culinary scene.
Find out how Birmingham Food Fest will be tempting food lovers far and wide at www.birminghamfoodfest.com

### Two on burglary charge

A man and a woman have been charged with burglary after a spate of break-ins across South Staffordshire and Dudley. A camcorder and laptops were stolen from Hagley Road, Stourbridge on August 30 with a house in Feiashill Road, Swindon, targeted a short time later. Dudley Magistrates Court heard on September 1 that police officers spotted a car suspected of being used in connection with the thefts driving along Priory Road, Dudley and arrested the pair inside on suspicion of burglary. Sanjay Patel, aged 32, of King Charles Barns, Telford, was remanded in surredry while Scene

Sanjay Lawe, King Charles Barns, Telford, was remanded in custody while Sarah Gibbons, 28, of Great Stone Close, Redditch, was Close, Redditch, was released on conditional bail after the case was sent to Wolverhampton Crown Court to be dealt with on November 24.

### Travellers on site of club

TRAVELERS have moved onto the site of a former war memorial social club in Stourbridge, sparking a legal bid to have them removed.

Police have visited the site in Amblecote High Street where two caravans have set up camp.

Meanwhile, a six-and-half foot fence has been erected around a travellers site in Penkridge, near Wolverhampton.

The fence has been put up to surround the site on the A449 Wolverhampton Road, Penkridge, which was granted permission in March despite protests from residents.

### Fairytale proposal made at zoo



Adam Walker after proposing to Caroline Parsons at Dudley Zoo and Castle

A DUDLEY ZOO keeper went for the big gesture when proposing to his girlfriend – using a huge banner hung on the castle. Adam Walker, aged 28, swore colleagues to secrecy when he planned his proposal to Caroline Parsons.

Mr Walker, who works with big cats at the zoo, made a 30ft banner bearing the words "Will you marry me?" and asked chief executive Peter Suddock and assistant curator Richard Brown to help him wrap it around the walls.

ne tnen took his future wife, a former zoo education presenter, into the castle court-yard to show her his handiwork – and was delighted when she said yes.

He said: "I'd been planning it for quite a while." He then took his future wife, a former zoo

while."
Miss Parsons, 28, a science teacher at St
Thomas More School, in Willenhall, said: "I
was just so surprised. It was amazing."
The couple, who live in Russells Hall
Road, Dudley, have set the date for their big
day next August.











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Tom Watkins, a former policemar Animal Search UK

# Pet detectives see dognappings soar

opportunist thieves even targeting people selling litters over the internet who give their name and address, says a former Stourbridge policeman.

policeman.

Tom Watkins, who runs charity Animal Search UK, says daily reports of dog thefts, with animals presumed stolen, have jumped from around 30 a day to between 60-100 every day in the last year across the country.

Mr Watkins, who quit his job as Pc in Stourbridge and Hallesowen to start his pet detective business, says dog owners need to be on their guard.

Jane Hayes, founder of Doglost, meanwhile says the Black Country and Birmingham has seen massive increases. She says Doglost now receives up to 200 calls a week about stolen dogs compared to 80 a week years ago. Mrs Hayes adds: "There has definitely been in increase in dog thefts around Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Dudley.

"We've even seen thieves taking whole litters from people advertising their sale on the internet and giving their rame."

The revelation comes after the

their name."

The revelation comes after the owners of a puppy stolen by two men on a motorbike were reunited with their beloved pet – after he was sold on to a couple in Wolverhampton.

Pauline and lan Parsons, from Brierley Hill, welcomed 16-week-old Cavalier King Charles spaniel Alfie back home after he was snatched by the opportunist thieves from Kelvin Way Trading Estate where Mr and Mrs Parsons work, in West Bromwich.



A couple from Coseley got in touch with Mr and Mrs Parsons after spotting Alfie in the newspaper. They said they had bought the dog from a man in Wolverhampton or £150.

Barbara Mills, a part-time legal secretary from West Bromwich, suspects she may also have been a dognapping victim.

nave been a dognapping victim.
Toby, a four-year-old white Bichon Frise she
was looking after while her son Peter was on
holiday, went missing from her back garden.
Thankfully, Pippa, a white three-year-old
Bichon Frise was left behind.

Bicnon Frise was left behind.

Mrs Mills, a 72-year-old widow, says: "I was having coffee with a friend and they'd only been out a short while and I told the dogs to come in from the garden and only Pippa came in.

"There's no way he could have got out of the garden on his own, unless someone opened



Lilly, a boxer from Streetly - missing since May 5



Staffie Buster from Tipton Sixteen-week-old puppy - missing since April 10 Alfie - returned to owners

he was very upset. I just hope he and my daughter-in-law are OK when they come back from holiday."

from holiday."

Mr Watkins says he currently has around 35 missing dogs from the Black Country on his radar, some of which are presumed stolen. The missing pets include one-year-old George, a black/tan/white Beagle, who has been missing from his Cradley Heath home since April 30. Lilly, a five-year-old Boxer from Streetly, near Walsall, has also been missing since May 5.

Two-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier Buster has also been missing from his home in Laburnum Road, Tipton, since April 10.

Mr Watkins adds: "Thieves know if they see a dog tied up outside a shop the owners will gen-







Barbara Mills with Pippa, a white Bichon Frise who was left behind by opportunist thieves who made off with four-year-old Toby, the same breed

erally pay a reward, and if it's a pedigree they can sell it in a pub somewhere.
"Thieves won't hesitate to jump into a garden and grab a dog or break a window if they see a

nice dog in a car.

Chris Williams, of Bourne Vale in Aldridge. said his Boxer Lilly disappeared at Woodlands Adventure where he is manager.

### Devastated

Mr Williams, who also has a four-year-old springer spaniel Ellie and two-year-old French Bulldog Belle, says: "It is shocking dognapping is on the increase. I was devastated when Lilly went missing. Dogs are expensive to keep and to buy and at the end of the day your dog is your friend. I had had Lilly for three years before she

went missing and it's not a nice feeling.

Dogbreeders Will and Sue Clulee returned to Poolgreen Gundogs at Farlow, near Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire to find nine eight-week old English springer spaniel puppies had been stolen from their kennels.

stolen from their kennels.

Thieves left only one pup from two litters after they forced a lock on a kennel block. The remaining puppy was running around on the driveway – and has since been named Lucky.

Measures to tackle dognapping include microchipping, tattoos in 'ears, and owners taking photos in case the worst should happen.

Call Animal Search UK on 01432 761406 or visit www.animalsearch.co.uk. If your dog is missing contact Doglost on 0844 800 3220 – www.doglost.co.uk

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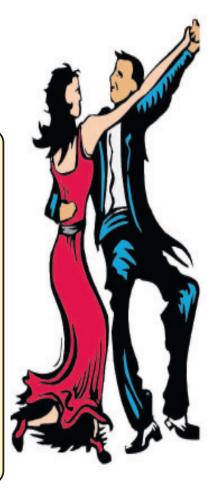
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### thechronicle

### Concert venue price cut

OWNERS of a landmark Black Country music venue are still looking for a buyer after it was put on the market.

The Regis Suite in Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, went up for sale for £900,000, but the price has dropped to £795,000.

Owners Tony Billingham

Owners Tony Billingham and Carole Jenkins saved and Carole Jenkins saved the building in 2008 when they bought it at auction from Sandwell Council for £500,000. It was given a £250,000 refit and has since hosted dinners, business meetings and live music events. The venue was famed for its music nights in the 1960s. The Regis has three function rooms. The main suite seats 350 people and has a dance floor. The second seats 80 and the third up to 50.

It also has two offices, a

No rush over £3.5m sell-off

NONE of the council office buildings to be sold off in Dudley town centre and bring in an estimated £3.5million will go on the market for the "time being", say borough bosses.

More than a third of local authority buildings deemed "unfit for purpose" are set to go on sale over the next three years, but before they go on the market council chiefs say they will be carrying out "detailed planning". This will examine timescales and relocation of staff.

Councillor Tim Wright, cabinet member for human resources, law and governance at Dudley Council, said: "We do not anticipate any properties being marketed for the time being as a detailed planning phase will now be carried out over the coming months."

of the council's buildings

# Museum visits drop as families feel the pinch

Living Museum, new figures reveal.

The tourist attraction in Tipton Road, Dudley had 153,670 people through the doors between January and July this year – an average of just under 22,000 per month.

Last year overall, an average of more than 25,600 people flocked to the museum each month, with a yearly total of 307,326. Bosses are blanning the recession for families feeling the pinch.

the pinch.

Trustee of the museum and deputy council leader Tim Wright said family budgets were being "squeezed" and they had less free cash to spend.

"People have to decide what is necessary to put on the table and what they can live without, and luxuries such as a day out at a museum will suffer," he said.

"It's a proposed to the said of the said of the said of the said of the said."

### Course fees are dropped

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COURSE fees have been dropped for students at long dropped for students and long dropped for students at long dropped for students at long dropped for students and long dropped for students and long dropped for students at long dropped for students and long dropped for students a

# the again as soon as the economy improves. Chief executive for the museum, Andrew Lovett, said a recent report by the English Tourist Board, VisitEngland, showed that paid-for attractions across the country had seen an overall reduction in visitor attendance this year.

"It's a cracking place and a fantastic day

Former trustee and new leader Les Jones Former trustee and new leader Les Jones added: "Attractions such as the museum bore up well during the early days of the recession, but it seems to have caught up with them now. "I'm sure that the visitor numbers will pick up again as soon as the economy improves

Range He said a range of offers and events has been introduced to try to boost numbers. It is the first time in recent years that the

It is the first time in recent years that the museum has seen a decrease in numbers, with visitor figures rising 10 per cent to 290,000 in 2009 and going up again in 2010. While there has been a drop in the number of people going through the doors of paid-for attractions, visitor numbers at museums and art galleries offering free admission increased last year.

VisitEngland said those numbers rose by up to 6.6 per cent in 2010.

The national trend has been mirrored in the West Midlands where many museums also reported higher numbers, including RAF Museum Cosford.

# No worries about paint mess



Roxana Payne gets ready to indulge the artistic side of children

AN INNOVATIVE arts and sions try to inspire children's crafts programme for pre-school imaginations and develop their children is being launched in hand to eye co-ordination and Kingswinford.

Kingswinford.

The Creation Station is aimed at allowing young children to experiment artistically in a safe area where parents wort need to clean up after them.

The sessions will be run by Roxana Payne at various venues carcoss Kingswinford, Kinver and Wordsley. She said: "The sessions cal creative play. Creating their

own piece of art each week also helps develop a child's thinking and creative skills.

"Another plus point for parents is that even when we get messy using paints and clay they don't have the worry and stress of cleaning up!"

Sessions cost £5 but various offers are available. Details from roxy@thecreationstation.co.uk or 0844 854 9091, or visit www.thecreationstation.co.uk

### Karl's in running as torch bearer

marathon runner Karl
Hinett has entered the
race to become an
Olympic torch bearer.
Karl, aged 24 from Hall
Lane, Tipton, was badly
wounded while serving in
Iraq and a picture of him on
fire on his tank was beamed
across the world.
He is completing a challenge to run 52 marathons
this year in aid of the Queen
Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham which treated him.
And he is now hoping to
carry the Olympic torch on
its West Midlands leg next
year.

### Honoured

Honoured

Writing on his Facebook page, Karl Hinett's 2011 Marathon Challenge, he said: 'I am honoured to have been accepted via email onto the next stage of the Olympic torch relay, where my story is being reviewed by the London 2012 Organising Committee.

Twill find out in December if I'm to carry the Olympic torch.'
Karl kicked off his marathon feat on New Year's Day in Switzerland. He is funding the challenge using his Army pension and all proceeds go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity.
Karl left school at 16 and after a brief spell working in a glass factory joined the Staffordshire Regiment.
He had been in Iraq for five months when he was injured.
To sponsor Karl visit

injured. To sponsor Karl www.justgiving.com/karl-hinett or text donations £1-£10 to 70070.

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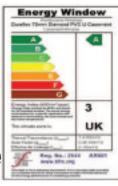
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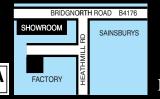


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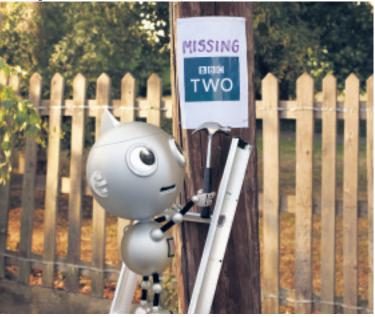
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### thechronicle



# Funny old game as cars are stripped to the bare essentials



vered into the vat of stripping fluid



A METAL processing firm in the Black Country has become

an internet sensation thanks to a popular TV show. More than half a million people have taken part in a quiz on the BBC's Top Gear website featuring Surface Processing Ltd in Dudley.

Surface Processing Ltd in Dudley. The company, which strips the shells of cars to remove rust and old paint, attracted the attention of the show's producers who were looking for a new game for the site.

Players must guess the make and model of the car correctly from looking at a picture of a stripped-down body shell without any paintwork. At one point it was the most-read page on the site, attracting more hits than a video of The Stig meeting Formula One star Sebastian Vettel.

And the business, which works on an average of 350 cars a year, has seen

a surge in trade since the quiz went live. Bosses are now taking on two new workers, to add to the 21 existing staff, to deal with the increase in orders.

Managing director Adrian McMurray said the television show's producers heard about the company through a mutual acquaintance.

### **Amazing**

"Who would have thought we were going to get half a million people looking at the state of our cars?
"It's amazing and I'm so pleased we were asked to take part," he said.
Cars are lowered into a series of huge vats of stripping fluid, removing rust and decay and leaving the bare lookyowck.
The vehicle then goes through a 19-stage painting process to put on a protective coat, which sees it dipped in various materials, before being "baked" in an oven at 185F.

Another layer can be added during the painting process to prevent it rusting again.

The average cost is about £1,500 per car and the majority of the firm's cus-tomers are classic car collectors who want to restore their buy to its former glory.

want to restore their buy to its former glory.

Recent projects have included a Ford Consul Capri, a Ford Escort Mark One and a Volkswagen Golf Mark One, while classic Mini Coopers also regularly pass through the company's base in Deepdale Lane.

Mr McMurray, who set up the firm in 1994, said: "With this process we clear out all the muck and rubbish, clear out the good majority of all the rust and you are left with a nice clear blank page on which to start the restoration."

Along with cars, the firm also restores aerospace, construction and agricultural equipment.

### thechronicle

### Shopper parking may be doubled

SHOPPERS could get a boost with double the number of free parking spaces in Stourbridge's high street in the wake of a multi-million pound redevelopment.

At least a dozen spaces could be created in Lower High Street. The new spaces would be similar to the drive-in bays along one side of Lower High Street neighbouring King Edward VI College.

They would replace the

They would replace the standard parking bayes which run up the right-hand side of the one way street approaching The Miller Parking bayes are looking at ways to create town parking during Tesco's £50million redevelopment of the Crown Centre. If the trial proves successful is could be made permanent. Transport engineers at the council are now looking into the viability of the plan.

A similar trial is taking place in selected streets around Dudley town centre in a bid to boost trade and appease business owners. Cabinet member 100.

appease business owners.
Cabinet member for transport, Councillor Patrick Harley, said discussions were being held into practicality of the plans.

### Jobs boost at museum

MORE THAN 20 jobs are up for grabs at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

The attraction in Tipton Road is looking to take on a number of casual guides and demonstrators to cover events coming up at the venue.

When bosses advertised 10 casual posts early last year more than 240 applications from across the region flooded into the venue. The final number of posi-

tions in the latest round of recruitment is still to be finalised.

# **1,300 pupils** suspended from schools

AROUND 1,300 pupils have been suspended from schools in the Dudley borough since the start of the year for a range of issues including assaults on teachers, theft, criminal damage and bullying, new figures

Education bosses in Dudley have revealed a total of 1,295 students were temporarily excluded and a further 45 students, all from secondary schools.

Education bosses in Dudiey nave revealed a total of 1,295 students were temporarily excluded and a further 45 students, all from secondary schools, expelled.

The exclusions were for bad behaviour between January and July this year. Six excluded were caught carrying a knife to school. A total of 21 were caught with drugs or alcohol. Another 302 assaulted a fellow pupil and 53 assaulted an adult on school grounds, with eight permanently expelled for assault. Bullying led to 36 students being suspended. The number of suspended pupils represents around 2.9 per cent of the total number of pupils in the borough. There are 44,584 students at primary, secondary and special councillor Liz Walker said the decision to exclude a pupil, either permanently or temporarily, was "never taken lightly".

She added: "While these figures are high, and nobody likes to see these figures, schools have to act in the best interest of all their pupils.

pupils.
"When you have children taking drugs and alcohol and bringing knives on to school grounds it is very worrying.

### Disruption

"We get some of the best exam results in the West Midlands – and part of that is the attitude that every child has the right to learn without disruption from others.

without uncothers.

"Schools do take a strong discipline is "Schools do take a strong line and discipline is enforced, but it is only as an ultimate sanction after every other avenue has been pursued."

pursued."
Council officers said they
could not name the schools
where pupils had been
excluded until the end of the
year due to the small
numbers involved, to
protect the identity of the

students.

In 2010, a total of 1,453 pupils were suspended and 60 were expelled.



# Double boost for family law team

TWO LAWYERS at Talbots Solicitors, which has a branch in Stourbridge, recently secured recognition in highly prestigious areas of family law.

The firm has added expertise in collaborative

The firm has added expertise in collaborative family law as well as enjoying another Law Society's Childrens Panel member. Lawyer Louise Jones and her colleague Mamata Patel are both family solicitors at Talbots – Louise is based at the firm's Wolverhampton office while Mamata works from its High Street location in Stourbridge.

The collaborative family aw process is a new way of dealing with family disputes – and Louise recently attained the qualification making it available to any of

the firm's clients. She said: "Sometimes, talking things through can seem the hardest challenge of all.

"Nevertheless the very best solution is almost always where couples work one out together – at its sim-plest, that is what collabo-rative law is all about."

Meanwhile Mamata was Meanwhile Mamata was admitted to the Law Society's Children Panel, a specialist accreditation scheme dealing with such areas as care orders, contact with children and adoption

with children and adoption.
Martyn Morgan, senior
partner at Talbots said: "As
a practice, this is an area of
law where we actively seek
to improve what we offer
our clients.
"We are so proud of what
Louise and Mamata have
achieved."

# Bold as brass building society helping Phoenix call the tune



Dudley Building Society's Lisa Jones, centre, with brass band members John Moore, on tuba, and Laura Jeffs. cornet

DUDLEY Building Society's Gornal Wood branch sounded a fanfare to help a local brass band in its efforts to land a national title.

The Phoenix West Midlands Brass Band, based at the Methodist Church on Himley Road, Gornal, approached the Dudley for support as it gears up for the National Brass Bands Championship of Great Britain this month.

Dudley Building Society has increased its support of local activities in recent years as it develops relationships with the community.

Gornal Wood branch manager Lisa Jones said: "Each of the Dudley's seven branches has a responsibility to forge closer connections with the various strands that make up our neighbourhoods.

"At Gornal we have links with sports teams, schools and other local businesses but the chance to help a local brass band was an opportunity for us to broaden our reach."

Phoenix West Midlands Brass Phoenix West Midlands Brass Band member John Moore added: "We are grateful for Dudley Building Society's support which enables us to buy new music stands for all band members - 25 in the brass section and two percussionists, which constitute a full contest which constitute a full contest line-up.

"We are a subscription band that has no outside support, we subsist on what we are able to earn through our concerts.

earn through our concerts.
"The Dudley's kind donation
will ensure we look our best in
Cheltenham on September 25 at
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# **Decision soon over** £6m mosque plan

A DECISION on controversial plans for a new multi-million pound mosque in the Black Country could this

Mosque in the Diaka. Country could this month.

Almost 200 letters of objection and support for the Dudley Muslim Association scheme were submitted to the council during the consultation period which ended last week.

Under the plans a new mosque and community centre, costing up to £6 million, could be built on vacant land in Hall Street, Dudley. The proposals have been scaled back from an original £12m design.

Dudley Council said no date has been fixed for plans to be considered by the planning committee – but it could be on the agenda for September 19.

The full application was submitted before last month's dead line when outline planning consent would have expired.

### Leisure

Muslim leaders have said the

Muslim leaders have said the plans were altered following concerns raised by residents.

Officials say the complex would include leisure facilities, open to non-Muslims, as well as two cafes, a multi-use sports hall, a gym, a nursery and an exhibition of Muslim beliefs.

It would also offer educational facilities including English courses.

The total floor space of the development was reduced from 82,193sq ft to 69,050sq ft around three-quarters of the size of a football pitch.

Council spokesman Phil Parker said: 'While the statutory time period for consultation has now passed, representations will still be accepted up to the day of the development control committee."

# Splashing out with Seahorse



swimming centre.

Courses are aimed at children aged between three months and seven years with a view to building skills and confidence in the water. Singing, role play and games are used.

role play and games are used.
One Halesowen parent to use
the scheme liked it so much she
joined the company.
Kristy Oliver said: "My sons
Archie and Elliot have both
attended and thoroughly
enjoyed the classes from an
early age. I jumped at the
opportunity to help teach at the
new venue."
Details: "Details: "Www.bekesses."

Details: www.babasea horse.co.uk or 01299 271247.

# Kristy Oliver, left, and Jo Parsons of the Gig Mill team AN INTERACTIVE swimming course is set to make a splash in Stourbridge. Baba Seahorse will take its courses to Gig Mill Primary School's new £186,000 indoor swimming centre. Courses are aimed at chil. TALKS are continuing over when wo Timescale to be set on park's revamp

TALKS are continuing over when work will start on a long-awaited £2.6million overhaul of Dudley's historic Priory Park.

toric Priory Park.

The beauty spot is to have a revamp including a redevelopment of the pavilion, lighting at the priory ruins, tree planting and path repairs. The football pitch and bowling green are to be resurfaced.

The Friends of the Priory Park and Green and Dudley Council applied for just under £1.8m of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. The remaining £800,000 will come from Dudley Council and other contributors.

come from Dudley Council and other contributors. Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "We are currently in talks with the main contractor over a timescale for the larger works in the park, and will have a clearer idea of a programme of works by the middle of October."

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### Rowley Regis: 6:15 pm Christadelphian Hall-39 Dudley Road **Rowley Regis**

### Wolverhampton Christadolphian Hall

129 Penn Road Wolverhampton

### Wombourn Chicate Solotia Church Road

# War art is going up for auction

IMAGES of Spitfires sweeping through the sky and soldiers fleeing enemy fire are amongst 20 wartime illustrations going under the hammer in Dudley.
Former propaganda artist Ron Jobson, aged 88,

Former propaganda artist Ron Jobson, aged 88, created the artworks when he was drafted into the War Office as a member of the Royal Engineers during the Second World War.

He was instructed to create illustrations for propaganda posters being sent out across the country to show the glory of the RAF.

The grandfather-of-six has given some of his artwork to Phil and Chris Aston of Aston's Auctioneers in Dudley to auction off at a sale in October.

Mr Jobson, who lives in London, became a full time illustrator after the war and worked on numerous commissions.

### Major

Major

He lent his skills to comic book series called Space Kingley between 1952 and 1954, but one of his major commissions was for the model creators Airfix in the 1960s. Various scenes of aircraft in flight, illustrating the models, were created to whet the appetite of eager collectors. And in 1967 Mr Jobson was responsible for the illustrations on all of the Matchbox 1-75 Series model boxes for that year.

"They would be quite strict on what they wanted and how the plane should look but I really enjoyed it," he said. "Even though I was in the army during the war it was planes that were really ny main passion."

The wartime illustrations were generally based on photographs which were taken out on the front line.

Around 20 artworks will be up for sale at auction house Baylies Hall in Tower Street, on October 15.



Chris Aston, from Aston's Auctioneers in Dudley, with some of Ron Jobson's work ready for the sale in October

# Shut garage is due to re-open

A PETROL STATION and supermarket at a prominent site in Stourbridge are due to reopen. The owner of the Broadway Service Station, Norton, is investing a total of £140,000 to refurbish the shop there and reopen the petrol pumps.

Tony Virdee, of Hagley Road, Stourbridge, has owned the plot, on the corner of South Road and The Broadway, since 1983 and had been renting the premises out as a shop until August 8 when it closed.

Now Mr Virdee, aged 63, wants to reopen the shop as a Costcutter supermarket.

The garage will open as a Texaco service station following a facelift.

It will be managed by his brother Pete, 55, who lives next door in The Broadway, while his nephew Sunny, 26, will also work there. A further two staff are to be employed.

Uncertain

### Uncertain

Mr Virdee said the previous occupants of the shop had shut suddenly.

"The site will have a new lease of life, opening the end of October or in November," he added.

Meanwhile, there is an uncertain future for the Blue Ocean hand car wash that has been operated by a different business on part of the site.

Planning permission for the car wash was refused last month.

rianning permission for the car wash was refused last month.

Dudley Council has now issued a notice ordering it to cease trading by tomorrow (September 9).

The previous occupants of the shop on the site had sublet the forecourt to the car wash, owned by Rzgar Raza of West Bromwich.

Mr Raza says he will appeal against the refusal of planning permission for his car wash.



Ron Jobson's work was used on the Matchbox 1-75 Series model boxes



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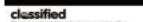


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### thechronicle

# Severance payments will fall if council changes formula

WORKERS at Dudley Council ity want to get rid of 427 posts by next Councillor Wright. "This has been leaving through redundancy could April. reviewed in light of the current eco-

WORKERS at Dudley Council leaving through redundancy could see their severance payout cut. Employees have the right to a payment if they are made redundant and have two years' continuous employment with the council. The amount of the redundancy payment is calculated using a statutory formula, which is based on age, length of service and salary which is multiplied to calculate the final payout. But that is now set to be changed

But that is now set to be changed

Around 350 have already left the council through voluntary redundancy.

The proposition of the proposition o

Some 25 others have gone through compulsory redundancy.

Discretion

Councillor Tim Wright, cabinet member for human resources, law and governance at Dudley Council, said: "Local authorities have the discretion to have an enhanced severance scheme.

The proposal is to reduce it from 2.2

to 1.5.

"The reduction will lead to a saving, in terms of the costs associated with future redundancies."
He added: "This proposal is that this will come into effect for all staff, including teachers.

"The same multiplier is used for both compulsory and voluntary redundancies."

which will lead to lower payments for those leaving the authority.

Dulley uses a multiplier to calculate how much money the changes will save Bosses at the cash-strapped author. Late severance payments," added the local authority.

# Mother sheds seven stones

# Narrowboat is the prompt for Gillian's diet



Gillian with her husband, John, in early 2009





Gillian has lost seven stones in total

WHEN Gillian Parrish booked a narrowboat holiday but then a narrowboat foliady but then feared she may be too big to get on board, she decided it was time to shed the pounds. Now the Wordsley super-slimmer has lost so much weight

slimmer has lost so much weight that she has been able to fulfill a lifelong ambition to climb Snowdon.

The 57-year-old dropped eight dress sizes from 30 to 14 after shedding seven stone in two years.

Mother-of-two Mrs Parrish, from Wordsley, said ditching fast food in

favour of eating freshly-cooked meals to lose the pounds.
Her weight has dropped from 19st to 12st. Mrs Parrish, a cashier at Booker Cash and Carry in Brierley Hill, has also become more active.

married to John and has two sons, James, 38, and Nick, 36.
"Ibooked a narrowboat holiday with my husband John," she added.
"But when I saw the boats at a narowboat show I realised how narrow

### Diets

She had previously tried various dieting techniques but struggled to find one that worked until she joined Slimming World two years ago.

Now she is planning to run her own classes to inspire others.

"I had been overweight all my life and I had tried diets but they never worked," said Mrs Parrish, who is

married to John and has two sons, James, 38, and Nick, 36.

"I booked a narrowboat holiday with my husband John," she added.

"But when I saw the boats at a narrowboat show I realised how narrow they were and that I would have to keep jumping on and off.

"Î was more determined to lose weight."

weight."

Last year Mrs Parrish, with her son Nick, saw her dream to climb Snowdon come true.

Her slimming classes start run on Thursdays at Pensnett and Bromley Liberal Club from 6pm.

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Tuesday	7.15-8.15pm Hilton Hall Community Centre, Lanesfield WV4 6DR 1.30-2.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley DY8 5RU	Thursdays	6.30-7.30pm and 7.45-8.45pm <b>The Kingswinford School</b> , Water Street, Kingswinford DY6 7AD
Tuesday Tuesday	7.15pm <b>High Arcal School</b> , Sedgley DY3 1BP 6.30-7.30pm <b>Wollescote</b>	Thursday	6.30-7.30pm <b>Darkhouse Baptist Church</b> , Darkhouse Lane, Coseley
. a. c. c. a. a.	Community Centre		WV14 8XH
Tuesday	7.45 - 8.45pm Wollescote Community Centre, Wassel Road, Wollescote DY9 9BY	Friday	6.30-7.30pm <b>Holy Trinity Church Hall</b> , Wordsley DY8 5RU
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# **Zumba Toning**

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School, Sedgley DY3 1BP

Hall, Wordsley

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### thechronicle

### **Fitness** sessions in pool

NEW swimming fitness sessions are starting in September at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre. Swimfit, sponsored by British Gas, has launched an online swimming programme for people to follow. There are four options to choose from based on different levels of fitness.

The leisure centre will be offering Swimfit sessions on Wednesdays from 3pm to 4pm, Thursdays from noon to 1pm and Fridays from concept of the september 7.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and of the second services of the second second services of the second second

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "The Swimfit programmes contain tips and guidance so you can achieve your goal whether it be to improve health a guira cannot in the country of the country

whether it be to improve health or swim competi-tively."

Admission costs £3.50 and participants can choose to follow any Swimfit pro-

### Bumper year for zoo birds

DUDLEY ZOO is enjoying a bumper year for birds, with 13 different species successfully bred on site this

season.

The list includes Lady
Amherst's ornamental
pheasants, a species from
China which was introduced to Britain in the 19th
century and named after
Countess Sarah Amherst,
wife of William Pitt
Amherst, governor general
of Bengal.

Other species born at the

Other species born at the attraction this year include the golden pheasant, Elliot's pheasant, Reeves pheasant, Satyr tragopan, Temminck's tragopan and Vietnamese pheasant.

# Hospital bosses' pay is frozen for another year

A PAY FREEZE for senior managers Dudley's hospital trust has been extended for

another 12 months to help make savings.

It will be the third year in a row that the 12 directors, including chief executive Paula Clark, have not

tors, including chief executive Paula Clark, have not had a rise.

The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall and the Guest hospitals in Dudley and the Corbett in Stourbridge needs to save £12million in this financial year.

The pay freeze was first introduced for 2009/10 and extended in 2010/11. It means Ms Clark's salary will remain at between £180,000 and £185,000 while finance director Paul Assinder will stay on between £140,000 and £145,000.

COUNCILLORS in Dudley have introduced two new ways for residents to contact them.

People can get in touch with all 72 members via the social networking site flickr or by downloading an information poster from the council's website.

### Canteen

Salaries for the non-executive directors will range between £10,000 and £15,000 to between £15,000 and £20.000

contact them.

People can get in touch with all 72 members via the social networking site flick ror by downloading an information poster from the council's website.

Pictures of each councillor have been uploaded to the council's flickr page along with contact numbers, links to email addresses and information on committees and agendas. and £20,000.
The hospital trust will also need to save £12m during the next two financial years. Cutbacks already made include slashing canteen opening hours at Russells Hall Hospital and admitting patients on the day of their operation rather than the day before.

member's telephone numbers and committees they serve on.
Dudley Council leader Les Jones said: "We want to make sure that members are as accessible as possible and people have access to A handful of redundan-cies have been made in back office departments vacancies are reviewed as they arise.

# How to build a diamond marriage

A BLACK COUNTRY couple who met in Scotland have celebrated met in Scotland have celebrated their diamond wedding anniver-sary. Colwyn and Bessie Clayes, of Croft Street, Wall Heath, marked

Croft Street, Wall Heath, marked 60 years of marriage by enjoying a special meal with their family. They met when Mr Clayes, then 19, was on National Service with the Black Watch regiment at Fort George, near Inverness, Scotland. His future wife was working at the base's store.

His future wife was working at the base's store.
The couple moved to Mr Clayes' home town, Rowley Regis, in 1951 and were married at St Giles Church. They lived at his parents' home in St Giles Avenue but bought land in Croft Street, Wall Heath, in 1959. Mr Clayes, a bricklayer, built the home they still live in today. His wife worked at the Dudley branch of Marks & Spencer for many years. The couple have sons Robert, 56, and Ian, 52, and five grandchildren.
Mr Clayes, now 80, said: 'It has

Mr Clayes, now 80, said: "It has been a wonderful celebration."





## Replica anchor heading for home

A REPLICA of the Titanic anchor will take pride of place in its home town of Netherton after councillors agreed to REPLICA of the create a permanent mon-ument to recognise the connection.

connection.

Campaigners had fought to ensure that the 16-ton anchor would return to Netherton from its temporary base at the Black Country Living Museum.

And members of Dudley Council's development control committee voted to approve the plans for its return. The 18ft-long anchor will be taken back to be positioned in the old market place near Netherton Arts Centre.

### Plinth

The anchor was made as part of a Channel 4 programme delving into the history of the construction of the famous passenger ship.

Initially it had been positioned in the market place, now a garden, on a temporary plinth at the end of filming for the show.

But the anchor was

But the anchor was moved to the museum while discussions were held about its permanent location.

The original anchor was forged in the Black Country

forged in the Black Country almost a century ago.

Committee member Councillor Geoffrey Southall said there was a case to delay the moving of the anchor to explore the costs involved with displaying it in an upright position. But committee members decided to stick with the original plans – which will see it laid flat – and gave the scheme the go-ahead.



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on committees and agendas.

A poster has also been added to the council's website detailing all member's telephone

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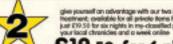
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### thechronicle

### Contest of keys in town

PIANISTS of all nationalities will descend on Dudley next month to battle it out in an annual competition.

The Dudley International Piano Competition runs throughout the month and finishes at the town's concert hall on October 16, when finalists perform with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The preliminary stage.

the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The preliminary stage, featuring 22 pianists, takes place at Dudley College on October 1 from 9.30am to 7pm. Semi-finals follow the next day from 10am to 6pm. Tickets for both cost £6 and are available on the door.

The competition began in 1968, evolving from piano classes at the Dudley Festival of Music and Drama, and is open to people aged 30 or under, studying or resident in the UK.

Tickets for the final will range from £7.50 to £18 and are available on 01384 833960.

### Staff ready to boost charity

HOSPITAL staff in Dudley will be raising their coffee mugs in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Cancer Support.

Interserve employees at the Russells Hall Hospital will take part in this year's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

The firm provides services and the services when the services were the services and the services are services as the services and the services are services as the services and the services are services as the services are services as the services are services are services are services as the services are ser

ices such as parking, porter-ing and catering at the

hospital.

The coffee morning will take place in the restaurant at Russells Hall Hospital on September 30 from 10am to 2pm.

A donation from all sales of coffee and cake will go to the charity. Last year the team raised £1,500.

### Hundreds flock to open day in fight to save community centre



Centre manager Steve Downing and Tipton Community Association member Karen Simms with supporters of the campaign to keep the centre open

AROUND 800 people packed into a closure-threatened Black Country community centre to show their support in the campaign to keep it open.

The Brook Street Community Centre in Tipton, which is owned by Sandwell Council, faces closure as council bosses review properties in a bid to save cash.

Bosses et the centre, which beste dozens.

Bosses at the centre, which hosts dozens of activities including keep-fit classes and tea dances, have offered to purchase the building's freehold or take on the rent subsidy under a new lease deal.

However, the council insists no decision

e campaign to keep the centre open will be made until its buildings review is complete. At an open day, centre users treated community leaders and councillors to entertainment and a sample of the activities that take place there to show the strength of support.

Manager Steve Downing said: "We've had about 800 people who have showed fantastic support." I hope councillors now know the feeling of the general public."

Barry Whitehouse, secretary of the com-

Barry Whitehouse, secretary of the committee which runs the centre, added: "We've had a great amount of support but we're still after more."



### OPEN WEEK

Tuesday 13th September

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### Man is treated after 15 in brawl

A ROW after a christening sparked a brawl involving about 15 people outside a Black Country pub.

One man was taken to hospital and the pub closed its doors.

The fight began outside The Fountain Inn, on Owen Street in Tipton, at around 10.20pm on Sunday, August 28 after its landlord asked a customer to leave.

The customer and another man then began fighting outside.

The incident escalated until around 15 people were involved and others were screaming and trying to break up the melee, nearby residents said.

Around 20 police officers and a police dog were rushed to the pub.

Kicking

### **Kicking**

A 47-year-old man was later taken to Russells Hall Hospital with facial injuries and CCTV from inside the

bub was seized by police.

Steve Bennett, landlord for the past 11 months, said:
"I asked a man to leave the backyard and people started arguing when he was outside.

started arguing when ne was outside.

"We closed the pub after it started and at one point someone was kicking the door to try and get back in.
"There were only around 15 people fighting.
"It was two families areuing after they came

15 people fighting.

"It was two families arguing after they came back from a christening," he added.

Barbara Wilkinson, a great-grandmother-of-11 of Owen Street, said: "There was a large crowd outside involved. It's the first time I've seen anything like it at the pub and I've lived here 15 years."

West Midlands Police said inquiries were continuing.

### Plea for eyesore site to be cleared

AN EYESORE site could be redeveloped to create new homes or businesses to improve a main route into Dudley, say councillors.

Land formerly occupied by the Duncan Edwards pub, in Priory Road, has

pub. in Priory Road, has become a magnet for vandalism and anti-social behaviour with security fencing kicked down.

Calls have been made for the site to be cleaned up and pressure put on developers to do something with the disused land for years.

Councillors for the area said they had been told schemes were in the pipeline although firm plans had still to be submitted to the council.

### **Track**

Councillor Ken Finch said he had been told landown-ers Clubhire Ltd were looking at developing houses or shops on the site. But he said it was vital work took place at the site quickly to clampdown on anti-social behaviour prob-lems.

anti-social behaviour prob-lems. Meetings are to be held between councillors and officers from the council to meet with developers to ensure plans remain on track for the site. Councillor Finch said: "The development will be for shops or houses. "Either would be of benefit to get this site back in use.

"Something has to be done as long-running prob-lems with the site are con-

tinuing."
The owners of the land were unavailable for comment.

# Centres' fate in balance

THE FATE of up to 30 community centres across Dudley in need of £2.6million worth of upgrades and improvements being done is hanging in the balance as council leaders prepare to meet and vote on their future.

A report on the council-run centres.

A report on the council-run centres many of them in a bad state of disrepair and needing investment to bring them up to legal standards – will be unveiled later this romonth. Councillors will vote on which course of action to follow. Leaders have admitted this is "likely" to include closing some down and moving services.

The cost of upgrading the old buildings has been valued at £2.6million – around 10 times the council's annual budget for community centres.

Community services chief Councillor Lesley Faulkner said the cabinet would vote that it is the plans at a meeting on September 14. "It would be inappropriate for me to say what conclusions have been made," said Councillor Faulkner. Among the centres under threat are Brockmoor Community Centre in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill.

# **Metal thieves** cut down play equipment

SWINGS, slides and a climbing wall have been stolen by metal thieves from a children's play area in a Halesowen nature reserve.

The play equipment was cut down by thieves who struck at the toddlers play area at The Leasowes, off Mucklow Hill.

The theft was discovered by staff when they arrived at work on Tuesday, August 30. Two swings, two slides, a climbing wall and a chain bridge were stolen.

It is thought the thieves

It is thought the thieves used a disk cutter or angle grinder to chop the equipment down from their frames before taking them away in a vehicle.

Council chiefs believe the

equipment may have been taken to be sold on for scrap. Metal thefts have been on

the increase across the Black Country in recent months as prices and demands rise.

Businesses, homes and churches have all been tar-geted by thieves.

### Dreadful

Chairman of the Friends of Leasowes Park, Marianne Diller called the thefts dreadful? news for the park and residents.

"I'm not sure how much this scrap metal would fetch in money but the equipment was so much more valuable.

was so much more valuable to the community and to the park," she said.

"I'm really sad to hear about this as the play-ground is much used by children and their families and is one of the main attractions for the park."

Replacing the equipment would cost thousands of nounds.

pounds.

unas. Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for envi-ronment and culture at Dudley Council, added: "I can't believe that people can stoop so low."



Senior ranger Antony Ravenscroft next to where the slide should be

# Recycle scheme set for borough rollout

A PLASTIC and cardboard recycling trial could be rolled out to the whole of the

A PLASTIC and cardboard recycling trial could be rolled out to the whole of the Dudley borough in a move that would save the council £500,000-plus a year. Environment bosses say increasing the amount of recycling carried out would drive down incineration costs. A trial has been operating at around 11,000 homes in the borough for the last six months. The council says residents have responded positively. The authority says it would need to invest in new refuse lorries as well as recycling bags and boxes for homes but the spending would be covered in the increase in revenue from the materials collected for recycling, estimated to be around £500,000.

The reduction in incineration costs would save around £530,000 a year.

A report has been drawn up and a decision on whether to extend the trial will be made later this year.

Director of the urban environment John Millar says in the report: "The benefit of rolling out this service would be an increased recycling rate.

"This in turn will see an increase in the amount of recycling income received and also a decrease in the amount of waste sent for disposal."

Empty shops to be given a makeover

EMPTY SHOPS are being revamped at Stourbridge's Ryemarket shopping centre in abid to attract new retailers.

### Success

Cabinet member for environment and leisure, Councillor David Stanley, said: "The trial has proven a great success and there are many advantages of extending it to the whole borough. We will now be analysing the data collected during the trial before making a decision."

The report was to go before the environment scrutiny committee yesterday (September 7).

The council already collects glass, cans and papers. The trial began in October and was carried out in different parts of the borough including Brierley Hill, Pensnett, and Kingswinford. Average participation rate was 86.9 per cent.

EMPTY SHOPS are being revamped at Stourbridge's Ryemarket shopping centre in a bid to attract new retailers. Bosses at the centre say the vacant units will be modernised over the next few weeks. Wooden boards have been erected outside some units in the Ryemarket to allow work to begin inside

some units in the Ryemarket to allow work to begin inside.
Workers from construction firm Thomas Vale have been given access to an empty shop unit opposite as a base for staff.
Centre manager Karl Taylor said some of the units could be knocked through to entice larger high street names. "The landlord is carrying out remedial work to knock several units into one to modernise them and make them more attractive," he said.
Mr Taylor said negotiations are ongoing with interested retailers.



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BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362478

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friend-ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323543

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTM gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765 €

ATTRACTIVE glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339799

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart

seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338315

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627

FEMALE 52. 5ft 2ins. divorced. likes

If an advert has a camera symbol next to it (as above) this means the advertiser has a photo.

TextWOLVDATE [space] followed by the advertisers Box number to 88833.



Helping you find your perfect match in the Midlands

### women seeking men

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).

BLACK female, medium build, mother of two, WLTM lively gent, 34-40, N/S with GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 148702

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTM understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375141

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375139 🗒

28YR old tall good looking and single, just looking for a bit of fun with spontaneous, open minded man. You wont be disappointed. . Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375137

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373013 🗒

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel. No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370017 🗒

6562 Box No: 370017 

DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370023

HAYLEY 26yr old curvy brunette, single mum of one, outgoing but very lonely, WLTM trustworthy guy who can help me have some fun again. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374139

HOME alone with no one to call my own!
38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363277 🗒 🗃

ELAINE kind, romantic, loving 43, seeks genuine male for relationship. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374845

MIXED race sassy lady, 38yrs, attractive and fun loving, looking for love and laughter without any strings, 30-67yrs. Tel No. 9905 436 6562 Box No: 372061

SLIM young looking blonde who loves everything about life looking for attractive honest guy to spend fun. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374141

DIVORCED female, attractive, OHAC, fed up with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel, No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372059

27YR old beautiful female, genuine and fun to be with seeking genuinely romantic male for mutual spoiling. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373017 €

MICHELLE 23, gorgeous, curvaceous, brown eyes WLTM nice guy for friendship, maybe leading to more. Looks unimportant. Single dad welcome. ACA. Tel. No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373015

HAVE all the good ones gone? Here I am left on the shelf looking for fun, laughter, friendship and naughty liaisons! ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372063

TINA attractive home bird, looking to make a nest with likeminded tactile male with lots of love to give. Looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

SASHA sassy 34yr old blue eyed senorita seeking older male for fun,

ends away, sangria and more, 45-Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hour-glass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368889 ∰ ₩

SHEENA 26yr old shy female, separated and very lonely, looking for friendship and very lonely, looking to more male, any nitially with similar lonely male, any ace. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374773

DOREEN blue eyes, red hair, petite build, varied interests looking for someone with a bit of get up and go who can make me laugh. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374137

WENDY dark hair/eyes, medium build, seeks male for friendship and see what happens. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361589

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317

JEAN 71, fun loving Shropshire lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373657

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTM countryman/batchelor, 48cere, WLTM countryman/batchelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicat-ed with GSOH and TLC. Herefordshire. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 387204

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368528

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371127 0

FUN female, uniformed, civil servant, attractive, average build, GSOH, seeks tall, professional, NS male with GSOH for relationship, Willenhall. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367485

5FT 1ins female, GSOH, seeks 5ft 5ins plus, well built male with GSOH for fun, fun, fun, tun. W Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365743

SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369295

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368429

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. Bridgnorth area preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367021

RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651

WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Shropshire Area Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362993

DIY gardening, friendly geek required by friendly 55yr old attractive teacher, soul-ful lady to share sunny days and starlit nights in my hilltop cottage garden. Tel nights in my hilltop cottage garden. No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365137

32YR old female, brunette, N/S, likes

GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 384852

Not: 394632 g PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, gen-uince male with GSOH for companion-ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351

WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855 ⊠

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTM very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight dis-ability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373 🛍

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy, Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 180587

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411

SHROPSHIRE female 40, seeks special local male to share life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355959

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming. bins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friend-ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317945

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine, caring male for relationship. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354533

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319

fixfl 🔝 CHAT207 TEXT: JM207 65125 SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353085 🖺 🗷

ATTRACTIVE Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and N/S. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265

WEST Midlands female, 4, attractive, slim, divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, attractive male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349651

LISA 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713

GENUINE caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327465

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573 🗃 28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving

YOUNG at heart lady, mid 70's, seeks male friend to enjoy outings and com-panionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335821 YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes wining/dining, seeks mature male for fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No**:

BOSSY lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good looking, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 326119

SHY lady 56, seeks similar natured, wealthy, tall male who loves small dogs, driving, Dorset, DIV, dining out and feeding the ducks. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367783

OUTGOING sociable young female, 33, average looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowlaverage looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowling, cinema, seeks gent, 33-45. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362769

FEMALE likes meals out, cinema, nights in, seeks male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361871

LADY 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361043

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 304135 🛍

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357919

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399

BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359235 ⊠



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### PROFESSIONAL lady, young 50, fash ionable, pleasant, kind, likes country side, outdoors, holidays, family life men seeking women male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316403

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867 TONY genuine professional male, 50, likes nights in/out, many interests, seeks genuine female for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373351 YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

PETER Shropshire male, 33, 5ft 7ins, medium-large build, 3 children, likes football, pub quizzes, kind, caring, seeks bubbly female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375281 SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491 MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tipton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370649 ∰

FIT fun guy 45, Hereford area, good job, loves walks, trips out, seeks female soul mate. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371031

MALE 53, seeks female 35-45 for friend-ship, maybe relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375057

retired gent with old fashioned values of retirendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 TOM Shropshire male, 58, N/S, quiet, homely, OHAC, likes music, walks, countryside, seeks similar, mature, curry female, 50 plus. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374943 ⊠ BOX No: 354183

ATTRACTIVE nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTM attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

GENUINE male, 46, honest, caring, slim-medium build, many interests, seeks female for relationship. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 231090 FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397

BRIAN Walsall male. 60. single. N/S. for mutual pleasure, regular meetings. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374487

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865 ALAN attractive, tall, dark, professional male, 45, GSOH, enjoys sport, socialis-ing, companionship, seeks bubbly, adventurous female to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373173 53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

ATTRACTIVE single mum, 40, outgoing, seeks similar guy for good times, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348919 23 TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes romantic days/nights in/out, WLTM attractive, down to earth, young lady, 35-55, size unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346611

PRINCE wanted, must be 6ft, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337465 ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, 42, GSOH, likes socialising, good company, seeks attractive lady with GSOH for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346018 PROFESSIONAL slim, curvy, bubbly

DAVID 54, active, looking for female, 22-58 for fun and friendship. Stafford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373387 45yr old lady, seeks tall, professional male, 42-52 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 262586

TALL 30's guy, fun, cheeky, little extra padding, seeks open minded, slim, vivacious, curvy babe for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339081

NICE guy late 30's, genuine, open-minded, likes withing on the same and companion and companion ship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341135

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses. EARLY 50's male, easygoing, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

Box No: 337153 HANDSOME attractive, fit, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 219790 

■

FEMALE medium build, seeks nice N/S male, 40-42 for fun and friendship, maybe more. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337985 

PAUL 35, seeks female, medium build, attractive for fun and friendship. Kidderminster. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

PETE pigs -

PETE nice guy 40, seeks older, slim-mish, confident Liz McDonald type for fun, friendship, flirtation and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374605

MICHAEL 68, divorced, N/S, non drinker, likes most things, nights in/out, day trips, honest, respectful, seeks slim

MALE young active 68, 5ft, black hair, N/S, non drinker, N/S, likes most things, seeks female, 30-36, attractive and slim for romantic future. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361159

55YR old male, kind, generous, loving, seeks lady for mistress type relationship. Staffs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366445 DAVID 54, seeks female, 18-50 for friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370585

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe

more. Wolverhampton. Tel. No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369663 🗒 📸 6FT male, 51, dark hair, slim, likes pubs, football, sports, seeks slim, easygoing female, 40-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374415 €

STEVE 54, tall, attractive, seeks older female, 60-75 for close fun. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374339

MARK 44, hurt in past, caring, honest, faithful, looking for love with lady to share heart with and spoil. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373393

SUKHI 40, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374171

TONY 47, loving, caring, honest, faithful, seeks local lady, 40-55. Smethwick area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373835

373835 []
IAN 45, genuine, good condition, outgo-ing, likes travel, seeks a lady who wants to meet a nice guy. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373729

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth seeks female for fun. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372407

SPORTY good looking guy, 37, OHAC, good job, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, nights in, seeks attractive female, 27-42. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364633

ROB 58, N/S, young looking, seeks similar female for everlasting, tender, loving soul mate. Walsall. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373507

LEE tall nice guy, late 30's, seeks fun, flirty, open-minded, forward, vivacious, slim, curvy babe for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373481

MARK 49, affectionate, easygoing, caring, fun loving, seeking similar female. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373223 🗒

GLAMOROUS granny wanted, 60 plus by Steve, 54 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370841 MALE 57, no ties, good looking, N/S, seeks mature female to end loneliness

and become soul mates forever. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372737 ATTRACTIVE tall honest guy, 48, polite respectful with GS fun relationship. T Box No: 371823 GSOH, seeks female for p. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

JOHN 6ft 2ins, fit, likes gym, holidays, socialising, dogs, seeks nice, fit female for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372563

### gay/friends seeking

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below). Or go online at: www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blueyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for furelationship. Any area, can travel. To No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 311892

# at: http://dating.expressandstar.com

# Going green for big

MEMBERS of Kidder-minster Horticultural minster Horticultural Society are gearing up for the group's annual two-day show which takes place this weekend.

The show takes place at the Ramada Hotel in Bewdley and will be the 57th in the society's history. In the past three years the show has been expanded to incorporate a country fair

the show has been expanded to incorporate a country fair and craft tent alongside the traditional horticultural and flower show and the same attractions are likely to be a hit once again.

Garden News editor Clare Foggett will open the show officially at noon on Saturday (September 10), although people are allowed in from 10am, with the day continuing until 5.30pm.

Medieval

### Medieval

Wedlevall
Sunday opening times are
10am-5.30pm and several
displays, including vintage
vehicles, agricultural tools,
walking stick carving, chain
saw carving and chair
repairing, take place on
both days.
There will also be a plant

A show spokeswoman said: "This really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cake, ploughman's really is a very friendly show and the ing homemade cak



sale, gardener's question time, dancing displays, medieval displays, dog agility, Victorian merry go parking."

For more information on the strong round, puppet theatre and train rides.

Under-16s get in free and a series of visit www.horticultural.org.uk or

# Adam the gardener takes best in show

Horticultural Society's annual show proved to be a big success, according to one of its organisers.

of its organisers.

The show, which took place on Bank Holiday weekend, has been running for more than 100 years and this year was again held at Riverside Meadows.

Winners included 21-year-old Adam Greathead, who won best in show for his chrysanthemum, while Austin Fletcher took home the Eric Hughes Cup for his gladioli.

Committee member and organiser Committee member and organiser Derek Walker, whose parsnips won him the best vegetable crown, said the show was well attended. "The weather wasn't wonderful but there was still a good turnout and it was a success," he said.

a success," he said.
"There aren't too many shows left which take place in marquees – they're usually in church halls – and I think there is something special about it."

Other activities during the two-day show included a raffle, tombola, various stalls and a display from Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade.



Derek Walker and Adam Greathead with winning leeks, Pictures: Colin Hill



Leπ, Graham Chad-bourne nows his onions.

Right, arrots on display from











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Stormseal fitted our windows over 20 years ago, since moving we have had a conservatory and a full house of windows and recommended them to all our friends and family Gittings of Dudley

Thank you to your office staff who co-ordinated everything perfectly Mr and Mrs Simmons

of Walsall

The way you and your company dealt with me from start to finish has beyond doubt more than met my requirements and given me total satisfaction. I am very impressed Mr Hemmings of Coventry

I was recommended to the company 10 years ago and recently had a conservatory fitted. I am over the moon with the quality and service. Miss Rae of Stafford

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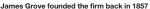
highly recommend your firm. Miss Challoner of Wolverhampton

I am delighted with my

conservatory and would

### thechronicle







Factory staff in the early 1950s gather



Grove's Bloomfield Works in Stourbridge Road which at one time had 600 workers

# **Button king fastened** on to a winning idea

First World War to postmen and railway conductors - all of them had smart uniforms with shiny buttons.

James Grove and Sons sup-plied buttons to the Ministry of Defence, British Railways and the General Post Office and the firm's history can be traced back to making buttons during the American Civil War of 1861.

American Civil War of 1861.
Still based on Stourbridge Road in Halesowen, the company was founded in 1857 by James Grove who started off with just a horse and trap. In the early 1900s he travelled across Europe selling horn buttons from his hotel room.

Now old photographs and arte-facts from the factory have been handed over to staff at Dudley Archives and they give a snapshot of the factory in the 1950s and 60s. Curator Andy Bytheway says it is wonderful to have such a rare collec-tion of hythera in the orbitise.

tion of buttons in the archives.
"There are not many of these buttons left and so it is great to have such an extensive collection," he says. "Not only do we have some of the pieces that were manufactured at the factory, but also pictures of the workers and the founder James Grove."

James Grove served his apprenames Grove served his apprenticeship with William Harris, who had a button factory at Spring Hill, which quickly became the largest and best equipped horn button factory in

Britain. James and his wife Ann Elizabeth set up their business in premises rented from Ann's father, but in 1865 this proved to be too small and so they decided to build the Bloomfield Works on Stourbridge Road. The company employed about 600 men and women. Today, it employs around 40 people using sophisticated machinery and polishing techniques.

### Reputation

neputation
Andy says: "When James Grove
died in 1886 the reputation of the
company as makers of first quality
horn buttons was firmly established.
When visiting the Bloomfield Works
in the 1950s people would have seen
the long line of storage sheds piled
high with sacks of horns and hoofs.
"The horns and hoofs were the raw

material used to make buttons – and any that were rejected were ground down to make fertiliser, so nothing

was wasted."
Pieces of horn were put into steam heated presses to make them flat and then button blanks were cut out by machines. Andy says: "Then workers had to match up the buttons as, when they were spread out on a glass table and illuminated from beneath, at least four shades could be revealed. The buttons were then

be revealed. The buttons were then cut to the desired shape, holes were drilled and then they were polished." The process today is still similar and some work is still done by hand. In 2006 the company moved into a brand new purpose-built manufacturing unit at Stourbridge Road and it now exports to most countries.

# **EXTRAVEL** star























# **WEST END BREAKS**

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### Coach inclusive breaks

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FROM £124.95 (Saturday Night) FROM £129.95 (Dine and Dance)

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups are from Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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\* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply

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# Enjoy Britain £49.95

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Enjoy a bargain break at the English Riviera staying at the Rainbow International Hotel. This is located within a short stroll of the town, beaches and sparkling sea.

Features include a restaurant and indoor swimming pool. Included excursions:

Dartmoor, South Hams & Salcombe A visit to the maritime city of



Rob Roy Hotel
Enjoy the magnificent splendour of Scotland's loch & mountain scenery. The Rob Roy Hotel has a rural setting on the outskirts of Aberfoyle.

Included excursions:

- Edinburgh
- Loch Lomond Railway journey from Tarbert to Fort
- William on the West Highland Line



william on the West Highland Line
5 Days • A flights:
19 September from £249.95
19 September from £249.95
16 September from £229.95
14 November - included excursions: Stirling, Loch Lomond with included boat four, Trossachs taking in Loch Achray and Callander - from £199.95

### **North Devon Delights** Royal Hotel, Woolacombe

Enjoy North Devon - a delightful mixture of dramatic coastline and magnificent moorland scenery. The Royal Hotel is set overlooking the beautiful village and bay at Woolacombe. Hotel features include an indoor swimming pool

44

- Visit to twin resorts of Lynton and
- On day 3 visit to the Atlantic Village Shopping Outlet

3 Days • 2 Nights: 23 Sept & 21 October from £99.95

### Isle of Wight • Corner House Hotel

The Corner House Hotel is set in the glorious resort of Sa within walking distance of the beach, pier and shops Included excursions:

Traditional village of Godshill

 Newport - the Island's capital 4 Days • 3 Nights: 23 Sept & 14 Oct from £149.95

### Strawberry Fields & Penny Lane

Enjoy a visit to the dynamic city of Liverpool and soak up the atmosphere of the Beatles.

On day 1 we take you to the centre of On day 1 we take you to the centre of Liverpool where you can join our optional excursion on a ferry across the Mersey - £8 pp On day 2 we have included a guided

'Beatles' sightseeing tour. 2 Days • 1 Night: 24 Sept - from £79.95

19 Sept

19 Sept

### Isle of Wight • Carlton Hotel

The Carlton is set close to the sea front with easy access to the town's amenities at Sandowi

Included excursion: Godshill

### **Emmerdale, Haworth**

Summer Wine Country
 Enjoy a weekend break taking in 3 great attractions. Includes 1 nights half board accommodation

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Brussels, Bruges & Adinkerke 3 Days • 2 Nights

Torquay - Rainbow International Hotel 5 Days • 4 Nights

Prague - City of 100 Spires 8 Days • 7 Nights

Devon & Cornwall

5 Days • 4 Nights

Bancourt Hotel, Torquay

Rhine & Wine Free Bar Break 4 Days • 3 Nights

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Rob Roy Hotel 5 Days • 4 Nights

Pontins Super Break - Southport 5 Days • 4 Nights

Adults from £99.95 • Kids from £69.95

Taste of Southern Ireland - Lawlors Hotel 5 Days • 4 Nights from

### **Newquay & St Ives**

with optional visit to Eden Project

The popular resort of Newquay has golden beaches and picturesque harbour. The Godolphin Arms Hotel offers a warm and friendly atmosphere lncluded excursions:

Poldark country & St Ives
 Padstow

Optional visit to Eden Project - a dramatic global garden the size of 30 football pitches - including admission - £26 per person

5 Days • 4 Nights: 26 September from £159 95, 31 October from £149 95

### Blackpool Illuminations

Blackpool is the North's biggest. brightest and best resort - packed with excitement and enjoyment. The Hotel La Tour is located in the centre of Blackpool

3 Days • 2 Nights: 16 September, 25 5 Days • 4 Nights: 19 September, 03 October from £149.95

### **Bournemouth, Swanage, Weymouth & Lulworth Cove with optional** day trip to Guernsey Bournemouth is a perfect holiday centre with its famous

theatres, 2 splendid Victorian piers, miles of golden sands, great shopping and a sheltered climate. We stay for 4 nights on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis at a

carefully chosen hotel.

Coastal tour calling at Weymouth and Lulworth Cove

Visit to Dorset town of Swanage and brief visit to

Poole harbour to marvel at the many boats Optional excursion

Guernsey on Condor Ferries - £25 pp 5 Days • 4 Nights: 10 October from £189.95

### Jersev · Norfolk Lodge Hotel

Jersey boasts miles of soft sandy beaches and secluded coves. The Norfolk Lodge Hotel, St Helier, features an indoor swimming pool.

5 Days • 4 Nights: 10 October from £279.95



Sparkling seas, golden sands, rugged cliffs and picturesque harbours await the visitor to Guernsey.
L'Eree Bay hotel is set approximately

50 yards from a beautiful sandy

### Roman Chester, Llandudno & the Horseshoe Pass

Enjoy a weekend break which take in so much. Firstly we visit Chester - a delightful historic city. Afterwards drive over the spectacular Horseshoe Pass and visit the beautiful town of Llangollen. From here we make our way to Llandudno where accommodation has been reserved

on a dinner hed and breakfast has we take in the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet

Torquay Hoppa Break - Cavendish Hotel

Torquay - Rainbow International Hotel 5 Days • 4 Nights

North Devon Delights - Royal Hotel 3 Days • 2 Nights

Isle of Wight - Corner House Hotel

Amsterdam & Bruges - 4\* Hotel Pres

2 Days • 1 Night

Olympic Park & London's Historic
East End - 2 Days • 1 Night

Strawberry Fields & Penny Lane

2 Days • 1 Night from £79.95

Newquay & St Ives - Godolphin Arms Hotel
5 Days • 4 Nights from £159.95

2 Days • 1 Night: 29 October from £69.95

19 Sept Beach Resort Mystery Tour

4 Days • 3 Nights

3 Days • 2 Nights Weymouth - Russell Hotel 4 Days • 3 Nights

2 Days • 1 Night

24 Sept Blackpool Illuminations Weekend

This Week's Late Deals by Coach

23 Sept

23 Sept

from £89.95

from £299.95

from £169.95

from £149.95

from £239.95

from £149.95

from £199.95

from £249.95

Prague - city of 100 Spires
4\* Hotel Duo
Prague boasts a stunning skyline with magnificent views over
the River Vlatava. There are Mediaeval cobbled streets, baroque facades, renaissance palaces and stunning churches. The 4\* Hotel Duo has a great range of

facilities including a bar, restaurant and sports centre. A metro station is just opposite the hotel entrance

Guided tour of Prague

Optional excursions:

- visit to southern Bohemia and Cesky Krumlov - £19.95 pp Charles IV's magnificent country castle - Karlstejn Castle - £9.95 pp
- Northern Bohemia and Karlovy Vary £19.95 pp Special Offer: Book all 3 excursions for just £39.95 pp

### Brussels, Bruges & Adinkerke

Take in a visit to magnificent Brussels, picturesque Bruges and so some bargain shopping at Adinkerke We stay at the 3\* Novotel Lille Aeroport. This is set 10 minutes from the centre of Lille.

3 Days • 2 Nights: 16 Septe

### Amsterdam & Bruges 4\* President Hotel

Enjoy a break taking in a visit to cosmopolitan Amsterdam with its handsome tall gabled buildings, narrow tree lined streets and tiny bridges combined with a visit to Bruges. The President Hotel has top class range of facilities

3 Days • 2 Nights: 23 September & 21 October from £139.95

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delights of 2 picturesque areas. We stay for 2 nights in the Rhine Valley. During your stay we take in an optional visit to the Moselle

in an optional visit to the Mossile Valley -£19,95 per person. On day 3, after breakfast, we take you on a Rhine cruise. Afterwards we make our way to the Black Forest. Tonight we have a special Black Forest evening with a dinner featuring Black Forest specialities followed by a 2 hour free bar between 8.30pm and 10.30pm.

On day 4 you can join our optional excursion visiting beautiful Lake Titisee, Staufen and delightful Freiburg - £19.95 pp Special Offer: Book both excursions for just £30pp

5 Days • 4 Nights: 10 October from £199.95

### Ostend Free Bar Break Ostend has it all - miles of sandy beaches, delightful

Ostend has it all - miles of sandy beaches, delightful promenades, sea front cafes and colourful markets. We stay for 3 nights on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis at the New Astoria Hotel.

A free bar with local draught beer, red or white wine or soft drinks between 20.30 hrs and midnight is

Optional excursions:

from £129.95

from £169.95

from £169.95

from £99.95

from £149.95

from £139.95

from £59.95

from £99.95

Sluis & Bruges - £9.95 pp
Amsterdam - £19.95 pp
Special Offer: Book both excursions for just £24 pp 4 Days • 3 Nights: 21 October from £199

### Antwerp & Ghent

4\* Crowne Plaza Hotel, Antwerp

Take in 2 of Belgium's most vibrant cities and enjoy a top class hotel stay. The 4\* Crowne Plaza is set on the outskirts of Antwerp and has a great range of facilities. Buffet breakfast is included on each day.

On day 2 we take you to central Antwerp - an international port and world celebrated shopping centre. On day 3 we take you to beautiful Ghent. A guided tour and canal cruise is

### Lake Garda, Venice & Verona

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of the Dolomites with its mild Mediterranean climate and picturesque mountains
4\* Caravel or Club la Vela. Both are situated a stone's

throw from the centre of Torbole

Venice • Verona Lake Garda circular toui

B Days • 7 Nights: 22 October from £379.95

### 4\* Paris - Holiday Inn

hotel stav.

The 4\* Holiday Inn Paris Velizy is well appointed and features include a restaurant, bar, fitness centre and indoor pool Shopping is available close by. Included excursions:

- Capital tour during the day we take in the Arc de Triomphe Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame and Champs Elysees. Seine River cruise available. (extra cost)
- Paris by Night see the city from the top of the Montparnase Tower
- Versailles and Paris. See the fabulous Chateau de Versailles - the largest and most magnificent palace in France. Time to enjoy the glorious era of Louis XIV and enjoy the stunning gardens. Admission extra. Continue to Montmartre where there is time to visit the Sacre Coeur and the surrounding area.

1 Days • 3 Nights: 28 October from £169.95

### **Austrian Explorer**

Enjoy the splendour of Austria's scenic glory - with its fairytale castles, green flower sprinkled meadows, sparkling mountain air, good food and wine. We stay at a carefully chosen hotel in the Kitzbuhler Alps area

- Included excursions: Krimml Falls & Kitzbuhel
- Salzburg and Lake Mondsee
  Great value optional excursion:
- Swarovski Crystal World &

Innsbruck - £19.95pp 7 Days • 6 Nights: 23 Oct from £299.95

### **Continental Christmas Markets**



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**Budapest Christmas Market** 

4\* Mercure Budapest, Buda 6 Days • 5 Nights - 08 December from £299.95 Black Forest, Switzerland & Alsace

5 Days • 4 Nights - 05 December from £199.95 Paris Christmas Markets

Luxembourg & Trier Christmas

Markets - with Free Bar 4 Days • 3 Nights - 28 November from £189.95 02 December from £199.95

Salzburg Christmas Markets
6 Days • 5 Nights - 03 December from £299.95
Rothenburg & Nuremberg Christmas **Markets with Free Bar** 

4 Days • 3 Nights - 02 & 12 December from £199.95 Mediaeval Prague & Rothenburg Christmas

Markets 7 Days • 6 Nights - 03 December from £299.95

Black Forest Christmas Market

with Free Bar 4 Days • 3 Nights - 09 December from £189.95

Cologne Christmas Markets with Free Bar 4 Days • 3 Nights - 25 & 28 November, 02 & 09 December from £179.95

Germany's Christmas Markets 4 Days • 3 Nights - 05 & 13 December from £99.95

Bruges, Ostend & Valkenburg Christmas Markets

3 Days • 2 Nights - 09 December from £139.95

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£625 pcm



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ES35 pcm
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### thechronicle

### **Behind the** scenes at town hall

VISITORS can explore behind the scenes at Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday (September 10).

There will be guided tours from 10am and 3pm showing people the box office and control room.

An archive exhibition of original documents will be on display in the hall chronicling the history of four businesses in the borough. They include

# Food bank hoping to double in size

A BLACK COUNTRY food bank says it needs to double in size in the next six months to cope with demand from needy families.

More than 3,500 people have been helped by the Halesowen-based Black Country Food 3,500 Black Country Food Bank in the last six

Bank in the last six months.

The figure is up 45 per cent on the same time last year. Bosses say they need to acquire another 5,000sq ft of warehousing space and have launched an appeal.

### **Empty**

Food Bank co-ordinator
Wendy Fryatt said: "Over
the next six to eight months
we are going to have to find
more space.
"We can't afford rents but
if people were willing then
we would be able to keep
empty units secure and
would, of course, step aside
if they had tenants wanting
to come in."
The charity has expanded

The charity has expanded its operation to provide clothing and toiletries.

Miss Fryatt said it is also now trying to provide more help and support services to deal with the reasons why people face poverty.

# Famous engine motors to a halt

THE building that houses a replica of an 18th century steam engine has closed its doors so that the machinery can have a £40,000 facelift.

Ado,000 facelift.

Industrialist Thomas Newcomen's
1712 engine transformed mining – and a Newcomen engine using original designs and sourced from local materials has been on display at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley for 25 years.

But it is undergo.

But it is undergo-ing a revamp in time for the Newcomen 300th anniversary celebrations in July.

celebrations in July.
The frame will be replaced and worn parts of the pump adjusted. The valve gear, piston and cylinders will also be repaired. A number of private trusts and other organisations have pledged their support to both parts. support to help pay for the work, but funds needed. are



# Pub's rock night raises over £300



Ross Pickett, of Bilston, from Eyes of the Raven, and Darren Welborn, of Castle Vale, from Undue, with other musicians at the fundraiser held at The Lamp Tavern

From Undue, with other musicians at the fundraiser held at The Lamp Tavern ROCK MUSIC filled a Dudley pub as nine bands took to the stage to help raise money for a good cause.

The fundraiser, held at The Lamp Tavern a week last Saturday, generated more than £300 for The Sophie Lancaster Foundation, which aims to combat prejudice. Sophie was murdered for dressing up as a goth.

Hundreds of music lovers attended the tent which rain from 2pm to midnight. Entertainment promoter Shaun Roberts, a great success. "We had a lot of people come through the doors and I am pleased with how it went," he said. "I am hoping that I can make it an annual event."

# Tearoom opening delayed by repairs

A TEAROOM based in a Stourbridge charity shop could be open by the end of the year despite delays on repairs to the building's roof.

the year despite delays on repairs to the building's roof.

Bosses at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice want to open the room to boost funds for the charity during the economic downturn.

Business manager Simon Henwood said the hospice had wanted to have the tearoom running by now.

Planning and building permits have been granted to allow the work to commence. But final repair work to ensure the roof and ceiling are watertight is needed before decorators and shop fitters can move in.

"We will still be opening the tearoom and it should be sooner rather than later, hopefully before the end of the year." Mr Henwood said.

"A lot of work has been done already but they have looked again because the front area of the first floor has not been used for a while. We just have to make sure it is watertight."

The hospice, in Hagley Road, needs around \$2\text{million} a year to fund care for patients.

# The Mayor of Dudley has met RAF veterans and air cadets shead of the Battle of Britain sevent in Dudley next month. The town will remember the heroes of the World War II battle of the skies on Sunday (September II). The day will include a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church (Top Church), a parade by borough Air Braining Corps through the town and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in Ednam Road, Dudley. Can make it an annual event." The Mayor, Councillor Michael from Priory Road at 11am. The route was considered from Priory Road at 11am. The route from Priory Road at 11am. The route sevent in Dudley market Place and High Street, A church service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The day will include a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am. The service will take place at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am.

THE MAYOR of Dudley has met RAF veterans and air cadets ahead of the Battle of Britain event in Dudley next month.

The town will remember the heroes of the World War II battle of the skies

of the World War II battle of the skies on Sunday (September 11). The day will include a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church (Top Church), a parade by borough Air Training Corps through the town and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in Ednam Road, Dudley.

# New campaign to honour rugby ace

LEAFLETS, posters and public meetings are all part of a fresh campaign to get a Black Country rugby league hero honoured in his

PARISHIONERS at St Peter's Church, Kinver are ringing out the good news about their forthcoming harvest fete.

The historic church will be filled with stalls on Sat-urday (September 10) selling crafts, cakes, gifts and books.

Visitors will even be able to try their hand at bell ringing.

There will also be a tombola and raffle as well as

tombola and raffle as well as a sale of paintings by a local Classic cars will be on

show at the church, includ-ing several Austin Healey models. There will be a range of

refreshments including a barbecue and bar plus homemade cakes.

Entertainment at the event includes a display of Irish dancing.
Admission to the harvest

fete, which runs from 1pm to 4pm, is free.

More details on 01384 77519.

Country rugby league hero honoured in his hometown.

Prop forward Cliff Watson, aged 70, started rugby union in Dudley before playing for rugby league side St Helens and captaining Great Britain.

More than 500 people have joined a Facebook group but the campaign has stalled in recent months. However, there are now plans to make posters and hold events paying tribute to Mr Watson to generate support.

Ring out the news on fete

PARISHIONERS at St Peter's Church, Kinver arringing out the good news about their forthcoming harvest fete.

PARISHIONERS at St Peter's Church, Kinver arringing out the good news about their forthcoming harvest fete.

The historic church will be filled with stalls on Saturday (September 10) selling crafts, cakes, gifts ond books.

### Church

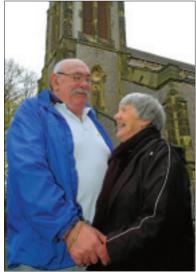
Church
The campaign is being run by Deb Brownlee,who chairs the group raising cash for the regeneration of St John's Church, Kates Hill, where Mr Watson married in 1960.

Mr Watson, who lives near Sydney, visited the church last November, inspiring Mrs Brownlee to call for him to "get the recognition he deserves".

She feels there should be a plaque or display in Dudley Museum and Art Gallery – or even a statue similar to that of Manchester United and England football legend Duncan Edwards.

Mr Watson said: "I feel

Mr Watson said: "I feel



Cliff and Barbara Watson at St John's Church, Kates Hill, where they married

### Wings appeal collections to be staged at weekend

COLLECTIONS are to be held in the Stourbridge area for the Royal Air Forces Association Wings appeal.

Members of the Stourbridge RAFA branch and the Air Training Corps will make the collections on Friday, September 16 and the following day. Money raised goes to support welfare work by the RAFA.

The annual Battle of Britain Sunday parade service will be held at 11am on September 18 in Mary Stevens Park.
Past members of the RAF are invited to join local members of the RAFA and ATC for the act of remembrance.



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STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 08 2011 Page 29



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### **Have Your Say**

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (DWMHPT) is working to become an NHS Foundation Trust. Becoming a Foundation Trust will enable us to:

- Involve you in the running of your local mental health services
- Respond more flexibly to the needs of our communities
- Improve the quality of our services
- Be accountable to our members
- Improve understanding and awareness of mental health issues

As part of the application process, we will be consulting with you between August and October 2011. During this 12 week consultation, service users, carers, our staff and members of the public are encouraged to comment on any aspect of our services or proposals, such as:

- Proposals for our new name as a Foundation Trust
- Our plans and priorities as a Foundation Trust

We will be explaining our plans, listening to your opinions and answering questions through a variety of activities and hope you will join us at one of our public consultation meetings (see opposite) to learn more about the Trust and give us your views. We look forward to seeing you there.





# foundation trust

Consultation Meetings



### **Next Consultation Meeting**

Venue: The Venue (Ednam Suite), 171-173 High Street, Dudley, DY1 1QD

Tuesday 27 September 10.00 - 12.00noon Date:

Light refreshments will be provided.

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**REVIEWS** 

### **NEW ALBUMS**

# Singer endorsed by Robert Plant

### Scott Matthews

What The Night Delivers
 WOLVERHAMPTON troubadour Scott
Matthews returns with his third solo
effort, with a little help from some of his

Robert Plant guests on the excellent Elsewhere, while opener Myself Again continually haunts for ts entire five minutes 15 seconds.

Head First Into Paradise is another

mead risk into Paradise is antonier wonderful ballad and highlights just how good Matthews' voice is, while The Man Who Had Everything firmly places Scott as one of Britain's best writers around. Matthews debuts his piano playing skills on closer Plano Song, but there is one instrument that rings clear throughout his stunning voice.

### Baxter Dury - Happy Soup

Baxter Dury – Happy Soup
Son of Ian Dury, lead singer of the
Blockheads, Baxter returns after six
years with his stunning third solo album.
Bleak, almost-spoken lyrics echo his
father with scary similarity. Isabel is wonderfully witty, as is singing about wasting
a bus fare on current single Claire.
As the album wears on, the more comortable it sounds. After two or three
listens it already feels part of the musical
landscape, as if it has been around
forever. Afternoon and Happy Soup mix
simple guitars with stark, clever lyrics.
The charm and warmth of this album is
hard to resist and it takes its full foll on
The Sun, while closing track Trophies
makes you want to press play and enjoy
all over again.

Charlie Simpson – Young Pilgrim Possibly the biggest surprise package with one of this year's best albums so far is the ex-Busted and current Fightstar singer's first solo effort, a wonderful attempt at acoustic rock-tinted folk. Immediate comparisons to Bon Iver on Down Down Down and Hold On can only be good, while latest single Parachutes sees the tempo raised. Sundown and the fantastic Farmer and His Gun end the album and see Simpson finally grow up from singer to a classic songwriter.



Wolverhampton singer-songwriter Scott Matthews features a guest appearance by Robert Plant on his third album. Matthews will be in concert at Birmingham's Glee Club on September 25

September 25

Various Artists –
Songs To Save A Life
This collection of covers from artists, some well known, others not so, was put together to raise money for the good work done by the Samarians. 10CC, KT Tunstall and Sophie Ellis-Bextor all feature with the latter's cover of Arcade Fire's Rebellion (Lies) being the surprise package. James Morrison opens with David Bowie's Changes, while Lucie Silvas' version of Lean On Me, and Ed Harcourt's Be Not So Fearful ensure there is plenty of emotion on the album.

Other Lives - Tamer Animals
The influx of American folk bands
shows no signs of abating. Chilling
vocals and lilting tunes are the order of

the day, the title track's piano providing an eerie setting for some wonderful lyrics. The band threatens to drift off into obscurity during the middle of the album, with no bite on Dust Bowl III or Old Statues compared with the earlier tracks. Luckly, the band arise for one last hurrah before the album finishes, in the form of the salbum finishes. the album finishes, in the form of the fan-tastically emotive Desert.

### Airship - Stuck In This Ocean

Don't be fooled by the mellow intro to this album, it's full of stadium-filling riffs this alloum, it's full of stadium-hilling riffs and anthemic choruses. There are echoes of Starsailor in opener Algebra and Arcade Fire in Gold Watches. Spirit Party has shouted backing vocals which again echo Arcade Fire but this time the volume level is cranked up. The stand out track on this album is the eight-minute epic, The Trial Of Mr Riddle. Building up to a cacophony of crinding quitars and to a cacophony of grinding guitars and thumping drums, along with an epic riff, it leaves the final five songs of the album leaves the final live so...s-cowering under its shadow. Jon Pritchard

Jill Scott - The Light Of The Sun

Jill Scott - The Light Of The Sun
I have never really rated soul singer Jill
Scott in the same league as Mary J Blige
or even, for that matter, as Amy Winehouse. However, she has moments here
that match anyone in her genre. She
knows her way around a soulful ballad
though is probably at her best when
things get funky, as on Shame.
Sometimes this album tries too hard to
be quirky, as if she's looking over her
shoulder at Janelle Monae coming up on
the rails. That's why it is hard to get a grip
of such tracks as All Cried Out Redux featuring, out of the mists of hip hop history,
Doug E Fresh. Also, her relentless
bravado and sermons on self-worth start
to sound pompous, though at least the
most blatant of them, Womanifesto,
morphs into the sultry Rolling Hills.
Jill Scott remains big business Stateside where the 'proper' opening track So
In Love has been a chart-topper.

Neil Young & The International Harvesters - A Treasure
From Young's scledict 1980s period, where he tried vocoders, rockabilily and country music. These are live tracks dating from the country period and very good they are too, including a tribute to

The dance-rock outfit from Staines were vital when they first emerged with 2005's Stars Of CCTV which, with hindsight, seemed to predict the messed-up hard-up post-credit crunch UK of today. But the follow up album was a disap-

On initial listens I can't see number three, Killer Sounds reversing the process. It doesn't quite hit the right retro buttons and I wonder if their former audi-ence would now rather listen to Plan B or Chase & Status.

Biffy Clyro - Revolutions:
Live At Wembley
Biffy Clyro are one of those rock bands
who fly under the radar. You are vaguely
aware of the name, they support
someone you have heard of and, before
you know it, they are headlining Wembley
in their own right. The double set featuring 19-track live CD and a DVD of the gig
is good value. Listening to it Irralised the ing 19-track live Charla a DVD integrig is good value. Listening to it I realised the band I had written off as Scottish Foo Fighters wanna-bes are actually a formi-dable, intelligent and hugely popular band who deserve their success because it comes from satisfying the fans rather than hype and TV exposure.

### Hermione Hennessy

 - Songs My Father Taught Me
 This Irish songstress has a distinctive vocal, a pure warble akin to Emmylou Harris. Many of the tracks on this album are Corrs-like pop-rock numbers, many co-written by the singer, plus a few covers including Crowded House's Fall At Your Feet and Carole King's Way Over

But the three key tracks are a lovely arrangement of the Prayer of St Francis, Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace, a gorgeously simple You'll Never Walk gorgeously simple You'll Never Walk Alone and, most poignantly, a duet with her late father Christie Hennessy on the excellent Soho Square, which was co-written by her father and her brother Tim Ross.

Leon Burakowski



The former member of pop-rockers Busted has pleasantly surprise music fans and the critics with his folk-influenced solo album

## For singer-songwriter Charlie it's all about pilgrim's progress

CHARLIE Simpson has sur-prised the music world with his solo album Young Pilgrim, thing I'm most proud of through out the product of throughout my solo album Young Pilgrim, confounding expectations with an earnest mix of folk and acoustic rock, gaining rave reviews.

Charlie plays the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on October 20 and at £12.50 it promises to be

worth every penny.

The former Busted and Fightstar singer has always wanted to go solo, and sees this period of his life as the

and sees this period of his life as the perfect time.

He said: "It's something I've always wanted to do, and now Fightstar are taking a break, it seems like the right time to do it.

"I was going to have a break but after about two weeks I got itchy feet and started writing music again.

Young Pilgrim was a name suggested by his brother for Charlie's record label but the 26-year-old felt it seemed right for his solo record.

He said: "I have had quite a journey

thing I'm most proud on since grants.

arear.

"It's something I did all by myself so I guess you could say it has been a long journey."

With his album having just come out on August 15 (see review left), Charlie is looking forward to the October tour as it will give his fans time to get to know his new songs.

Films He said: "The tour I've just finished was good but the crowds didn't know the songs. Hopefully by the time October comes they will have had time to live with the album a bit."

After surprising critics with his excellent debut, Charlie reveals there may be more surprises in the future.

He said: "I'm really into films so I'd

leve to get into doing film scores. But not yet, maybe when I'm a bit older."

One thing is for sure however, this young pilgrim's journey into music has only just begun

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Visit www.diy.com to see which stores near you offer timber cutting, but if you'll be making a special or long trip, check the service is available when you plan to go.
You can buy hinge-hole cutters for your drill or drill-driver, then all you have to do is prime and paint the doors and add knobs

prime and paint the doors and add knobs or handles.

# Brushing up on oil-based paints



Use natural bristle brushes to get the best results

IL-based paints and varnishes tend to dry slowly, but sometimes nothing else will do. Follow Julia Gray's top tips for a durable finish. Use oil-based paints and varnishes for a tough, durable finish that should last for

Oil-based paints and var-nishes tend to separate, so you need to stir them really well before you use them, ensuring that you reach right down to the bottom of the tin. They sometimes get a skin on them, which you'll need to

Use natural pristie brushes for the best results, and clean them thoroughly after use.
You'll need to use white spirit or turpentine substitute for cleaning and you should soak your brushes in



Use oil-based paints for a finish which could last for ye

Seasonal task

Most dry slowly, so be patient and don't do another coat until the previous one's completely dry.

Warmth will speed up the dorying time, while cold or damp conditions will slow it down and may even ruin the finish.

Results

Use oil-based paints for a finit brushes by not cleaning them to dry.

Hower rubber gloves and old clothes when using oil-based paints and varnishes, as when the protect the surrounding area as well.

Over time, oil-based paints for a finit brushes by not cleaning show the leaving them to dry.

Hower rubber gloves and old clothes when using oil-based paints and varnishes, as when the protect the surrounding area swell.

Over time, oil-based paints for a finit brushes by not cleaning them to dry.

If you're worried about this, choose water-based alternabetween coats. tives instead, which dry lt's very easy to ruin quicker and are nicer to use. tives instead, which dry

If you're thinking of laying a patio or doing some gardening before it gets too autumnal and cold to do anything outside, you'll need to protect your knees.

Save any strain with knee pads – they're handy for all sorts of DIY tasks.

Try Clas Ohlson's, priced at £7.49 for the pair, which are really comfy and made of polythene plastic.

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straps straps, so you can even walk around with them on.



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### thechronicle





# Cool customers are ready before winter

of September could be scorching, but this is the UK, so most of us will be thinking about putting the garden furniture away and covering up the barbecue for

putting the garden furniture away and covering up the barbecue for another year.

September is an ideal time for a great garden tidy-up, while it's still warm enough to work outdoors comfortably before the inevitable freezing weather sets in. If you've returned from holiday to withered summer bedding and dried-up pots, bite the bullet and empty them on the compost heap, replacing them with a spring display.

Plant bulbs, pansies, heathers and other winter and spring stalwarts to brighten up your outlook. If you're not you're not you're not you so you containers for winter displays, clean them out, wipe them down and put them away.

Some gardeners tend to more laxed about disease control at the end of the season, but ignore them at your peril. Cut off or prune out affected parts of diseased plants and burn or dispose of them. Pest control is also important. Be aware that many biological controls become less reliable when the temperature drops as the insects will multiply more slowly. Take off shoots on plants which are infested with greenfly or blackfly and dispose of them.

It's also important to keep up with the



If crops have finished, clear the land weeding because otherwise they are likely to shed seeds, creating a hotbed of more weeds next year. Continue to deadhead roses and cut

Continue to deadhead roses and cut back finished summer-flowering perennials. removing supports which propped up the plants which have stopped flowering. These can be cleaned with a mild detergent and put away until next year.

The vegetable garden should still be producing rich pickings of French and runner beans, salad crops, courgettes

and sweetcorn, but if you have time, clear away spent crops to create vacant rows, dig over the ground and refill the spare space with autumn and winter crops as soon as possible.

Give the greenhouse a spring-clean, emptying it of staging, plants and rubbish and give it a good clean with hot, soapy water, which will help flush out pests and diseases and prepare the area for overwintering tender plants. If you're putting plants back in therety to space them out to allow good airflow around them which will help stop the build-up of diseases such as soft rot and mildew.

airflow around urein which with imposing the build-up of diseases such as soft rot and mildew.

Garden furniture can also be cleaned at this time of year on fine days, to save you a job next spring. Teak furniture should be washed with a mild mixture of soap and water and it is best if you use a soft utility brush to remove surface dirt. Rinse the furniture thoroughly after cleaning and allow it to dry completely before putting it away for the winter.

September is also a good time to prune cane fruits such as loganberries and tayberries, cutting off the fruited canes to about 6in (15cm) from the ground.

canes to about bin (13011) non-acground.

Of course, once you've done all this,
the sun may come out and you may
have to unpack a deck chair or two if the
summer turns out to be an Indian one -



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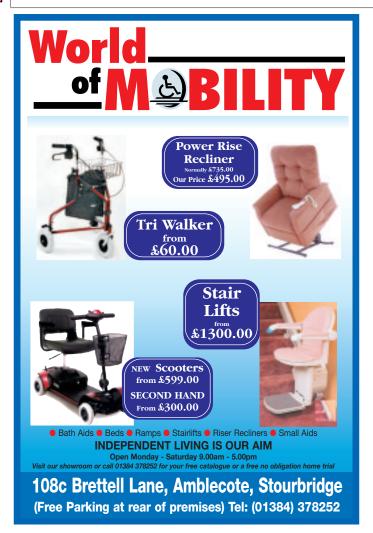


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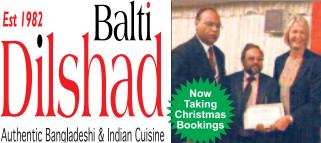


Taking the family out? Then consider how much it's going to be and if the setting is suitable for children

Taking the family out? Then consider how much it's going to be and if the same of the same

might like to consider:

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The Red Lion, Handsworth





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**Dudley Road, Rowley Regis** 



Rawlings Road, Smethwick



Aylesford Road, Handsworth



Royal Oak Road

- Extended semi detached house
- three bedrooms
- extended lounge
- no upward chain

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#### **Woodbury Road**

- \* Detached house
- Lounge and dining areas Some improvement required
- Great potential Vacant possession
- £175.000

## HALESOWEN



### Summerfields Avenue

- Extended semi detached

- £174.995

## Lounge \* Dining room Fitted kitchen

- \* Utility \* Fitted cloakroom \* Well appointed bathroom

#### OLDBURY Queensway



#### Wollescote 4B Wassell Road

- Modern ground floor apartment Two bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/fitted kitchen Private enclosed rear garden
- GCH & DGW Off road parking Available now
- Monthly rent of £450



### 14 Henderson Court

- Spacious 3rd floor maisonette
- Three bedrooms
  Part or Unfurnished available!
  Kitchen with appliances
  Living room with balcony
  GCH & DG windows
  DSS considered

#### Monthly rent of £435

## QUINTON



#### **Chichester Drive**

- \* Mid town house
  \* Exceptional accommodation
  \* Three good bedrooms
  \* Sitting room/study/bedroom 4
- Refitted kitchen Lounge and dining areas
- £169.950



#### Flat 1 59 The Drive (off Hagley Rd)

- Refurbished ground floor flat
- One bedroon
- Kitchen with appliances
  Bathroom with shower over bath
- Night storage heating DG windows Available soon!
- Monthly rent of £395

## HALESOWEN



#### Carters Lane

- Semi in sought after location
- Three bedrooms Kitchen \* Breakfast room
- Bathroom with shower cubicle
  Through living room
- Enclosed garder

## Offers in the region of

## CRADI FY HEATH Old Hill

#### 39 Mossvale Close

- Duplex style apartment Principal bedroom with ensuite
- Quality kitcher Dining room/Bed 2
- Carpets/floor coverings
- Car port Available now

#### Monthly rent of £550



#### 19 Old Port Close

- First floor self-contained flat

- First floor sent-out-of-one bedroom
  Open plan lounge/ kitchen
  Allocated parking
  Furnished and heated
  Kitchen with many appliances
  View now for early September

Monthly rent of £385



- extensive rear garden

## Offers in the region of

## ROWLEY REGIS

- 66 Glaslyn Avenue
- Stylish 2nd floor apartment Two double bedrooms
- Kitchen with cooker
  Living & bedroom with balcony
- DGW & electric heating
- Available now!



Flat 1 Highgate House 13 Parkfield Road

- Ground floor flat
- one bedroom
- large living room bathroom with shower electric heating upvc double glazing car parking space
- Monthly rent of £375

#### OLDBURY Tividale



- Wilson Drive
- Modern detached house
- Four bedrooms (master ensuite) Wardrobes to all bedrooms
- Lounge & dining areas Kitchen/breakfast room Utility \* Cloakroom

## Offers in the region of

## £219,950 ROWLEY REGIS

- 6 Allsops Close
- Mid-terrace house
- Improved & redecorated Kitchen with oven, hob & hood
- GCH & DGW

## Monthly rent of £475



87 Peel Way

- Redecorated & improved flat 2 bedrooms (with electric heating) AFFORDABLE RENT

- Monthly rent of £375

#### **Brett Young Close** Tastefully presented house Fitted cloakroom & Utility room Three bedrooms (one with ensuite shower) \* Extensive forecourt parking

£184.950

#### Gas boiler serving radiators Double glazed windows Offers in the region of

## WEST BROMWICH

- 66 Margaret Street
- \* End-terraced house
  \* 2 double bedrooms
  \* 2 reception rooms (with gas fires)
  \* New fitted kitchen
- ' New Carpets
  ' Gas central heating
  ' Great location & affordable rent

#### Monthly rent of £465



- Self contained ground floor flat
- One bedroom
  Double glazed windows
  Open plan living room kitchen
  Electric heating
  - Car space Available from 1st October
- Monthly rent of £360

Estate House, 821 Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1AD

## Flat 3 Quayside Close

## the pulse

## Fun and laughter at 10th comedy festival



a Glee Club appearance for Jack Whitehall

mime show was a big hit at last year's festival.

A noticeable musical thread is evident at the festival this year with a celebration of post-war American satirists Bob Newhart and Tom Lehrer, veteran pianist James Sherwood and gultarist/comedian Ashley Frieze.

Visual arts, sketch groups, mindreading, multi-media performances, improvisation and more fill the busy schedule, which covers more than 20 venues throughout the city.

These include established arenas such as the Alexandra Theatre, the Town Hall and The Glee Club, as well as smaller more intimate venues like Scruffy Murphys and Jewellery Quarter's Red Lion pub.

Improvised



Paddy McGuinness - an appearance at the NIA on October

In its 10-year history, the festi-val has included such famous names as Michael McIntyre, Peter Kay, Sean Lock and Jimmy Carr, attracting audiences of up to 86,000 people. A festival spokesman said: "We'd like to spokesman said: "We'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in making the festival such a huge success over the past 10 years.

"This city has a comic heritage to be proud of, but it's not something stuck in the past; it's constantly evolving with new acts

and new comedy clubs appearing every year. If your only experience of comedy is sitting at home watching primetime variety. TV or later-night panel shows, this festival offers the perfect introduction to what comedy can really offer. It can be exciting, thrilling, challenging, challenging,



Barbara Nice is appearing with the 'Gals' at the Glee Club, October 10



# Parsons - star of TV's Mock The Week show

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## Saturday TV



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Choice

BBC2

Channel 5

Digital

LAW & ORDER:

VICTIMS UNIT

Channel 5, 8,50pm

The Law & Order franchise is in serious decline at the moment.

The original alrow, despite being the largest-running drama on US TV, has been assot, and out of the four uphnotic, and only one

remains in production – Special

Victims Unit, But were a weel sit

behind our American cousins, so we've got another two seasons to

view before the alrow changes aimost beyork i recognition. In the meantine, ceason the runties on with an episode insolving the theft of 100 eggs from Huxison.

Cryckank, a dinio that stores frozen embruos. Otime drama. starring Mariska Hargitay

SPECIAL.

BBC1

9.86 Breatfact. 19.86 Schridzy
Interen Live. 19.86 Football
Football EBC News,
Feginari News Westier. 19.96
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Figinal Privag Westier. 12.29
Figinari Fives Westier. 12.29
Fixed Man.

P. 49 Selectly Come Dimeting Limited Show. Rect-corpet event opening the pro-celebility, contect, with girect start

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Lestings of the Prome Katie Derham

Presents that be bendant precents the grand introde of this year b. Froms at the Royal Albert Hall, featuring performances by plantet Lang Lang and coprano Susan Bullook; National Letters the best to be the state of the state

Lattery Update
Lattery Update

10.95 kinds erittle Drys
Instituting highlights of
Americal v Swampen
City

**©.#**\$/The Football League Show, 'We atherwise', **12** \$880 News,

9.90 CBeebled 200 CBBC.
42.90 The Skyathikit (F) 42.20
The Great British Exise Off (F)
42.00 Except to the Country (F)
42.00 Except to the Country
42.00 E

9.49 Heg ■ From Stoke-on-Trent. (Ft)



200 Bed's Aline, Cornedly with Amoid Biology (P) 200 Leading Corne Prime. The final concert of this year b

Promo, featuring Lang Lang performing Loaf b Plano Concerto No. 1, and Sucan Bullock and Sucan Bulods
chighty an ecception
Wayner to
Getter dammening
Continues at 0.10pm on
BBC1
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Johnny, Carr (F)
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Jimmy Carr. (R)

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from the Giseries. (R)

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ITV1 Channel 4

9.99 Live Rugby World Cup.
Prance v Japan (fide-off Zodan),
16.99 Live Rugby World Cup.
Angestina v England (fick-off
8.90 mm),
16.99 Lift News,
Weattler,
16.99 Coronation
Street 2.19 Firm Johnny Englich
(2003) 9.29 Rugby World Cup
Highlighta, 16.99 Regional
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Weattler,
Weattler,

9.69 All Shri I wally I britanes. 200 Red of Blook? Art and Decinositie final

Decinocities man edition

6.02 Tex X I help & Garry Banton, Kelly Rowland, Tillian Contocharbon and Louis Walah continue their counts for the next lighting in music as more dingeral perform at the auxiliary.

tire auxitions. 5.49 Red of Bineit: Reselle.

The two remaining finalists own pets for the characters with a finition. Last in the certes. See The Jean-Man Beese Shows With Beneditor Cumberlands, Alan Cart and Bed Hot Chill Benedits.

Peppera Stop Snoring or your

199 FTV Howel Worked 199 I Tare United 191 (2003) Faothbased drama, ctarring Cirrictian Clemencon

180 The Zone, ITV News Heartlines, 420 Held Crime tiviller, daming Douglay, Sooth (R) 9-0 Dive Raging World Cup, Australia vitaly (Rick-off 4.30am).

RASE The Hooks (P) RASE The Hooks (P) RASE FIM Superbike World Champtondhip. (P) 표와 British Formula S international Series 표와 The Morning Line. Series Table The Morning Line
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KEL The operation to eliminate the al-Calecia leader. (R)

Stop Snoring or your

precented by Davina McCall

19.20 Ph of 1 Mort & the Crit Thribed of Line (1906 of a Lyadharist 1922 Super Saladharist

4.9 Filmt Garden State. (2004) Portantio cornecty charming Zooh Braff and Matalle Portanan 生婦 Medi: The Wrong Turn 所 生紀 Medi: Lose Tube (内 を終る 3 Minute Workler) 松野 3 Million Professor Youthicknoo 2008 (内) 松野 Brothers & Sicters (内) 松野 Smalfalle (内) 外野 HI Street Blues 225/Countriown (内)

9.00 Milkotatikel 90.00 Incide Hollywood, 90.00 Nie erkat Marror, (F) 90.00 The Garlyst Show, (F) 90.00 Bother: Lauron Show, (F) 90.00 Plin: Calantity Jane, #### Big isround with Jame. (1989) Western musical connecty, charring Dode Darry #### Firm Chief Crays Horse, Horse Hors

200 Sillene Weelnard. 200 Law & Order, Green goed undercover to interdigate gun dealerd.

(R) TW (ICH.A routine murder intectigation becomes personal for Alay, when it emerges the killer is an oktifiame who committed the crime in

committeetite of the intitle large of furing her
into a deadly trap. (F)
4.06 Law & Griders by each
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Anricka Hangtay.
4.00 Sign Meloni and
from lausel night ac
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Febru Routher Lichard

morn current right as Brian Doubley Labreed a new group of hepetitic into their home for the next however many weeks – depending how popular they prove with the public.

have tighter and the control of the

12. ■ SuperCadina 9.99 The FBI Files. (F) 9.39 Chinece Food in Minutes. (F) 299 Harab Heipites (F) 299 The Milkstakel Show. (F) 299 Thomas & Flerks. (F) 299 Feorly the Backing Car. (F)

ITVž

2.55 Film: The Lake House (2008) 9:55 The Xita Factor 5:50 Film: Gurly Sue (1991) 8:00 Superhungur Workl's Sugallest People 0.00 Orthodolytees 0,30 Oby Minrs The Hot Deck 0,95 The Xtra Factor 10,95 Celebrity Julice 11,20 Film: Van Helding (2004)

0.95 Jane Eyre 5.55 Apatha Christe's Marple 755 Apatha Christe's Point (0.00 A Tonon of Frost 11.05 Cambriny Tales

2.95 Live Cycling Vielta a Espana, Stage 20 from Biblao to Vitoria, 500 British Touring Car Champion ship Highlights 600 Police, Camera, Champonicup Hymny Brook or Cambra, Aofoni 700 Cyding Mielta a Espana 720 Ringby (Worli Crip Highlylite 8:50 UEFA Champions League Greatest Godis 0:00 Film Ticker (2001) 10:55 Film Chank (2008)

BBC THREE 200 Top Gear \$00 Doctor Who Continential \$45°Work's Graziest Fools 0.15 Film Face/Off (1997) Action Birtler, starting John Travelta and Nicolas Gage, 1925 Family Guy

#### BBC FOUR

700 Life 3.00 kildrael Woods Story of Bridard 0.00 Spiral 10.90 The Story of Variety kildrael Gravie 11.90 The Sky at Hight

0.55 Howto Look Georf taker 920 Film Just Ny Linck (2006) 6.25 Che Thee Hill 720 The Big Barry Theory 750 Perfect Complex 8.15 How I klet Your klother 8.45 Happy Birthijs 0.15 Film: kir & kirs Smith (2005) Connelly adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolle. 11.25 The Gleveland Show

#### PILIT

0.00 Cheaper By the Dozen (1750) 955 Carry On Dick (\$174) 6.40 Salian (2005) 6.00 X-klen (2000) Schil controbook adventure, starting High Jackanan, 11.00 Ben Whealley on ICII List 11.05 Recentary's Baby (1988). Horror, starring bila Farrow.

(No. 61



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## Sunday TV



## Stop Snoring or Your Money Back



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#### Choice

**BIQ BROTHER** 

Channel 5, 10pm In the early days regular Big.

Brother was nearly always more entertaining than CSS because everyday people were often far more watchalde than celebs, not

Index because they went on more of a fourney? (res, the most ubiquitous word in reality TV land). Now, with a generation ground for instant standom via

tine Ekij Erotiner lenkes, itts a different atory. Whether you love or loatine it, thereby no denying it

can make for compelling TV as

we see here with highlights of the new housemates first full day Inside. Assuming no latecomer do a "Brian Bello" and win the

show, therebial good dismostine

where is in the house now. But

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

Day (R) 8.46 The Anchew Marring
Street — 84 Sunday Morring
Live. • 846 Country Tracko,
Weather for the Week Meant.
6.16 BBC News 41.46 Formula
The Italian Grant Fire — Live.
The 16th round of the cacon
Gambrier to Oppy, 644 British
Remembers September 1811.
6.14 Songe of Frides 4.36 BBC
News Regional News, Weather.
8.25 Strictly Come Camping
Launds Show (R)

#### 9.40 Holm's's Elifosis

Perhas Zoologist
Martin Hughes-Games
explores the groundbreaking work being
done by breeding
programmes protecting
some of the most

come of the moot threatened antimate. Centularities. Clare Baking watched cattle being preparecifor competition at the Manmouthaline Show, while Matt Baker gets the centuralism. white Nate Saker gets
tipe on turning a
working animal into a
prize winner from a Mid
Wales cheep harvier.
happear fleerige
fleeting. The detective

looks into the caspidous death of an old friend and informant, leading if in to casped a police cover-up. Nell Pearson, Deant Lennox Religions, Deant Lennox Religions Mark Benton gued ctar.

50.00 PBC Thowas Peoples of Invaded Verdies.

10.12 People und Programmes.

11.22 Table Select. (1004)
Connects drama, daming High Grant and Tha Pick Benton, Verdies. looks intoffre

199 Sign Zone: Dragons' Den (R) 299 Hoby City (R) 499 The Good Cook. (R) 499 BBC Nevs.

#### BBC<sub>2</sub>

9.49 CBeckler, 1299 CBBC, 19.49 Something for the Weeklerxt 1949 Live Goth Waker Cup, The coord (day, this Royal Alberteen Got Club, 1949 America Remembers Splantier 11th 449/Live Goth Waler Cup, More from the cecons (day, utilitie Royal Alberteen Got Club, 1949 Cap, 1949 Cap



## around displaying anouncing of the country of the c

recommendation
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Second World Wat. (R)
Title Well's Steat
Bring with a Re-offs.
Rind Gilbert and Greg
Dardes drive through
Negations

Nepot.

Nepot British of the Boy 5.
Inducting lightly for of Norwich Office 9 Vect Bromwich Silven.

Steel their the Ywest With guests Midly Farragen, Mathan Caton and Steels Brown Branch. AS

Stewart Francis. (F) 1120: 2 Days in Paris.

(2007) Romantio drama, starring Julie Delpy, and Adam Goldberg

16 ⊌ Plint Photographing Fairles. (1997) Drama, charring Tollys Stephens 249 € BBC News, 446 The Super League Show, 446 Cloce.

#### ITV1

Act Registeral Programmes.

9.49 Program of Programmes.

9.49 Pri Hevest Vention.

198 Residue Orthor of Heste.

198 Residue Orthor of Heste. Kelly Rowland, Tullen Contoctavios and Louis Walsh Dermot O'Leary

## precents. 7.90 Appropriate Admit. Conduction, Voluntary, worker Jametb relationship with Fred.

West enters a new phase when die makes a series of vidts to him in pricon. Staming Emily. Watson and Dominio

**2.39** The Zone, ITV Nevac Hextilines **2.69** Motorsport U.C. **3.69** ITV Nightspreen. **239** ITV Monthly Nevac.

# Channel 5 CARTINGS SAS Milkchaket Peggar Pty, 8-82 Roary the Enoisy Car., 65, 9-82 Fleman San, 66, 9-80 Fleman San, 67, 9-80 Fleman Carlott, (67, 9-80 Flema

8.49 The Hooks, (F) 8.49 The Hooks, (F) 200 The Crist 1220 European Wheelstaf Fending Championdrip 2011 1220 TS: Che Tree Hill, (F) 6.19 TS: Che Tree Hill, (F) 6.19 TS: Che Tree Hill, (F) 6.19 TS: Caper Schricky 6.00 English TS: The Simpons, (F) 9.00 TS: The Simpons (F) 9.00 TS:

9. 8 TBLE Jerniusy to the Couler of the Brith. (2008) Fremiere. Partiaga absorbure, with Brenklan Fracer and Joch Hutchercon.

The Dend. The ckeletons of combatants from the Crusaxies



## TAR CARREN OF 0'41 The lives of children who loct parents in the September 11, 2001

attacks, including the con of a woman killed at the Pentagon and three ciders whose father ded on Flight 83.

• Tather deed on High size.
• Lab I Table Yeeld Trode

Couled (2006) Factbased drama, directed

by Oliver Stone, starring

Micolae Cage and Maria

**180** American Football Live. New York Jebs v Dallas Covinoys (filds-off 1.20am). **9.0**5/Nogamb Ferfe d. Recall (Fi) & **\$**€ Countriown. (Fi)

Factor 10000 Filhra (Grocke) Up (2007)

Digital

0.05 Film: Forever Young (1002) 5.05 Agatha Cartalle's Poirot 6.90 The Darling Bank of May 0.00 Filin: Death Becomes Her (1302) 11.10 Rim:The Road to WeiMile (1304)

200 Qyoling: Tour of British: 8,00 Premis Rugby Union 0.00 Rugby Workl Cup Highlights 10.15 Film National Lampoon's Anthral House (1078)

**BBC TYRIS** 200 Fonnita 1: The Iblan Grant Prix -Hydrights 8.00 The Worl's Strictect Parents 0.00 Young Dund and LMing Off Minn 10.00 Fairly City 10.95 American David 10.00 Wife I 1150 Young, Durab and Living Off Mina

8.05 Filint Becoming Jame (2008) 10.00 The lüling 11L00 Legenda: Dork Day: Virgin Territory

900 Flor Horton Hears a Whol (2002) 6:10 South and the Creek 20 Sanathte 800 Fibro Faitzato Fort: Rice of the Silver Surfer (2007) 10:00 The Inbetweeners Top 10 Monents 10:00 The Inbetweeners River Foarl The 11.25 Rhod Officert and the Award-Winning Mince

**FILE IO** 0.**15** Day of the EVI Chin (1988) 5.05 The Man Who littlew Too Little (1937) 0.35 in Cool Company (2004) Salincal cone-by claiming Dennis Chiaki, 0.00 Bride Wars (2008) 10.45 About Schmidt (2002)

### Channel 4

9.49 Live Rigity, World Cup. Irecture v USA (Midwell 2004m).
1.69 Live Rigity, World Cup. South Africa v Profess (Midwell 3,80 cm).
1.69 Live Rigity World Cup. South Africa v Profess (Righer).
1.69 Furnisch Einer Vollage (Profess Cup. 1) Live Furnisch (Profess Cup. 1) Live Furni

#### 90.40 FTV Howe;Y/orthor.



**90.99 i E.P.C Streby Str..** (2003) Coming-of-age comedy drama, *ctanting Gregg* Suitch.

#LSS sperCache # SChinece
Food in Mindec (F) # # Great
Scientists (F) # # Daine
Decigns (F) # # Hunars
Helpline (F) # The Mischale
Show (F) # # Thomas #
Frients (F) # # Roary the
Bading Car. (F)

200 Our Day Makatibud Calolina England v

India 600 Pilens Verland. 600 Bill: Verlage Point. (2008) Premier Tiriler, with Dennic Cunkl and

Matthew Fox.

\*\*\*\* Big Broket The Inducemated first full

clay:

160 i 121: Quee Uyeu o

Time is bledee. (2003)
Action i triler, carring
Antonio Banderas and
Johnny Depp.



### Monday

Breckfact 0.15 Heliocyter Herosc 18.00 Hornec Uniter the ammer; EBC News; Weather, 11.00 To Bulk! or of to Bulk! 11.45 Cadn in the #850; PS BBC Hammer, Bed New, Weather, 1998 To Bulk of Not to Bulk 1998 Could in the Alba, F4 EBO Not to Bulk 1998 Could in the Alba, F4 EBO Not to Bulk 1998 Could in the Alba, F4 EBO Not to Bulk 1998 Could in the Alba, F4 EBO Not to 1998 Could in the Alba Not to 1998 Could in the Alba Not to 1998 Could in the Alba Not to 1998 Could Not to 1998 Co

(F) 1.55 BEC News.

BEC 6.64 CBeether, Tale CBEC, 3.56
CBeether, 11.55 The New Pink
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S.# TV Noming News.

Chan mail 4 6.66 The Teacle People.
6.35 The Hooke. (P) 6.68 The Hooke. (P)
6.35 The

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Just something that's fuel-efficient. But it needs a bit of Mpgwer - your neighbourhood's quite and your groceries can be so heavy. And it's nice to have an engine that roals

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## MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONIC MOTOR

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

## Insignia VXR has badge of quality - everywhere

ing cars and have competed in many forms of motor sport over the years, which has

of motor sport over the years, which has delivered some storming cars. The loon from my day was the original Astra GTE, one of the first hot hatches of the 80s. However, time waits for no-one and the requirements in our modern times are somewhat more sophisticated. We want high performance handling, which has to be comfortable for everyone, not an ironing board ride, engines that deliver huge amounts of horsepower but sip fuel like a moped, practical luggage space for a whole family and to cap it all we want it to be reasonably priced!

In order to answer these requirements Vauxhall has the VXR range which is the sporting arm of the factory. The one I have on test is the Insignia VXR 2.8 V6 in what I call fire engine red but is fittingly called 'Power Red' in the pertition.

I call fire engine red but is fittingly called 'Power κεα ιτ the catalogue.

The shape of the Insignia will be familiar but the VXR has some different features. The first item to grab you is the wheels, which are 20-inch jobs with wide rubber band style low profile tyres.

Even if you're not interested in cars, they immediately signal that this is different from the rest of the range. The front bumper also sports some mesh grills which are not just there for show but help cool down the big brake discs and the Brembo brake calipers that are visible through the wheels.

To finish off the ensemble there is a pair of tasteful sports exhausts sticking out of the rear bumper. Then, if

### **By Neil Ward**

you are under any illusion as to what this car is there are VXR badges everywhere.

The VXR theme continues inside with instrument

The VXH trieffic continues inside with instantient panels, gear lever, pedals and a three spoke steering wheel that is flat at the bottom all being suitably badged. Oh, and as you get in there are VXH alloy sill covers again reminding you that you are entering a different beast from the normal family car.

The front seats are Recaro and are beautifully sup-

portive in all the right places, achieving the comfort and firmness that enable you to tackle almost any form of

Other manufacturers should take note of this. Too many times I have driven high performance versions of family cars to find that the seat is designed for a race-track where even a wallet in the back pocket can mean you don't fit in the seat.

You don't it in the seat.

The Insignia VXR is fitted with Vauxhall's latest version of its 2.8 litre 24v Turbo V6 which produces a pleasing 325 brake horsepower and is fitted to an excellent auto box which helps distribute the power to the four-wheel

box which neips unsultate and permitted five system.

The sound it makes when you bury the throttle pedal and the way it eats up the road would scare many so-called sports cars.

With 0-60 coming up in 5.9 seconds this is a serious performance car and the excellent four-wheel drive

uation, providing confidence in being able to use the power when you want and not just in the straight line on

power when you want and not just in the straight line on a dual carriageway or motorway. Now I have left the best bit until last – the handling. The previous Vectra VXR was a fearsome beast with huge amounts of understeer. If you drove one of those cars, banish its memory from your mind. The Insignia VXR has been tested extensively on the fearsome Nürburgring race track to ensure that its road manners are impeccable and I have to say the time the engineers spent there has been worth every penny. For a car of this size to handle the way it does with a surefooted nimbleness is amazing and will have you looking for the sign that indicates the road has loads obends.

Sadly, this also means that wore a saint.

bends.

Sadly, this also means that you are going to home from just about anywhere and exting the car broke down" (unlikely), "the road (possibe) and my all-time favourite" in needer at work" are all going to wear thin pretty. So if you are looking for something that is comfortable, practical, according to the control of the control o

that is comfortable, practical, a and their luggage and will thrill and handling with the added big smile to your face even then buy one.

On the other hand if beir constantly and having to comore ingenious excuses to half as to what you are late.

half as to why you are late

worry you might want to avoid this car.
But if I can influence your decision in any way, and
provide you with another excuse, it is this: Blame me,
(for clarify that's Neil spelf N-e-I-I). I would recommend
the doghouse every time. Trust me, it's worth it!















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THE 2011 Frankfurt Motor Show will play host to four high-performance Audi S models sharing one new eight-cylinder engine. The new powerplant enables them to counterbalance outputs of up to 520PS with the potential for up to 29mpg.

The new bi-turbo V8, incorporating cylinder-on-demand technology and a host of other advances, replaces the naturally aspirated V10 FSI engine in the all-new S6, S6 Avant and S8 models, and in the process improves economy by as much as 25 per cent. It is also at the heart of a completely new addition to the S quattro Series - the new S7 Sportback. In the S6 and S6 Avant the new 4.0-litre, hin-turbo V8 delivers ample power with fuel economy in keeping with the times. It appears here in 420PS form, and provides a constant 550Nm of torque from 1,400 to 5,300rpm, enough to cataput the S6 from 0 to 62mph in 4.8 seconds and the S6 Avant in 4.9 seconds, and to spur them on to an electronically governed top speed of 155mph.

#### Performance

The 4.0 TFSI brings Audi's downsizing strategy to the high-performance class. Compared to the 5.2-litre V10, it offers even stronger performance while reducing fuel consumption by as much as 25 per cent. Average fuel consumption is 29.1mpg in the S6 and 28.8mpg in the S6 Avant, well above that of the competition.

The two new S models are fitted as standard with adaptive

The two new S models are fitted as standard with adaptive air suspension in its firmer "sport" configuration. The tautly tuned air suspension with variable damping lowers the body to 10mm, and provides for highly precise handling without compromising comfort. Four 19-inch cast aluminium wheel in a unique five parallel spoke design frame the black calipiers of the powerful front and rear internally ventilated disc brakes, which can be replaced by carbon fibre-ceramic discs as an option.

as an option.

The Audi S7 Sportback uses the same engine as the S6 and S6 Avant – the new 4.0 TFSI with 420PS and 550Nm of torque. The twin-turbo V8 accelerates the five-door coupe from 0 to 62mph in 4.9 seconds, and top speed is limited to 155mph. The cultivated eight-cylinder, which uses Audis "cylinder on demand" technology under part load, achieves an impressive combined economy figure of 29.1 mpg.

The S7 Sportback is fitted as standard with adaptive air suspension sport and the Audi drive select dynamics system. Mounted behind the 19-inch wheels are large, internally ventilated disc brakes front and rear. Their black calipers are stamped with S7 logos at the front. Carbon fibrecramic discs are available as an option. Other chassis

ceramic discs are available as an option. Other chassis options include 20-inch wheels and dynamic steering, which varies its ratio as a function of speed.

#### Sublime

Sublime

The Audi S8 is the new head of the Audi S model family – a large and luxurious saloon that can deliver sublime comfort or supreme excitement as required. The new 4.0-litre TFSI in the S8 generates no less than 520PS and delivers a constant 650Nm of torque to the crankshaft between 1,700 and 5,500rpm. The result is outstanding performance: the sprint from zero to 62mph takes just 4.2 seconds, and top speed is electronically capped at 155mph.

This makes the fuel consumption of the sonorous and smooth twin-turbo V8 all the more amazing: It averages 27.7mpg on the combined cycle, a considerable gain over its competitors, and its predecessor – the 5.2-litre V10 in the previous S8 posted 21.4mpg in the equivalent test. This has been achieved despite a 70PS increase in output.

The new Audi S8 strikes its impressive balance between performance and efficiency platform, including the recuperation and start-stop systems. The newly developed "cylinder on demand" technology also plays a very significant role.

cant role. Under part load, it deactivates four of the eight cylinders for an efficiency gain that is particularly pronounced at moderate motorway speeds. A package of acoustic measures including the Active Noise Cancellation system suppresses possible intrusive noise and vibrations. The eight-speed tiptronic in the S8 unites sportiness and efficiency, it uses tall gears at low revs when possible, but downshifts quickly and comfortably when requested. The tiptronic delivers the power to a quattro drivetrain combining a self-locking centre differential with the sport differential on the rear axle.

During dynamic driving, the lion's share of the power flows to the outside wheel to literally push the large saloon into the



The S6 Avant - power and progress



Kia's Rio will have its UK public debut at Ecovelocity, the low carbon motor festiva

## Kia parades Rio hatchback on the ecological catwalk

KIA will be showing a selection of its environmentally conscious Eco-Dynamics models at this week's non-electric vehicle in the world - emit-

KIA will be showing a selection of its environmentally conscious Ecopynamics models at this week's EcoVelocity Low Carbon Motor Festival in London.

The new Rio hatchback will makes its UK public debut at the exhibition. Visitors to the show, held from September 8-11 in the grounds of Battersea Power Station, will have the opportunity to inspect the all-new Rio and the new Plcanto city-car at close quarters, as well as low-emission versions of the ce'd family hatchback and Sportage crossover on a purpose built test route. Test drives in the congestion charge-exempt Picanto will be available on a

non-electric vehicle in the world - emitting just 85g/km CO2 and offering
88.3mpg in 1.1 CRDi '1' guise - when it
goes on sale on 1st September.
The extremely efficient three-cylinder
diesel engine is aided in its quest to
deliver ultra low CO2 emissions by
longer gearing, a stop-start system,
low-rolling resistance tyres and aerodynamic tweaks to reduce drag.

#### Emissions

Joining the Rio on the Kia stand will e the recently launched Picanto. Available now for the first time in both

three- and five-door versions, the new Picanto is offered with a 99g/km 1.0-litre engine and a 1.25-litre with emissions from 100g/km when combined with Kia's 'Intelligent Stop and Go' stop-start system.

stop-start system. Kla's stylish Sportage crossover, with its 135g/km1.7 CRDi EcoDynamics turbodiesel and the cee'd hatchback with ts very low 103g/km 1.6 CRDi turbodiesel will also be on display. For more information about Kla's EcoDynamics range of vehicles go to www.kia.co.uk and for further details about the EcoVelocity show, or to buy entry tickets, go to www.ecovelocity.co.uk.





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mnies, 2 owners, service h months MoT, £3,250 one 339157. 339157. FORD MONDEO LX TD Ci 2006, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, very good condition. £2,695 ono. 07761 248071 / 01384 821165.

good continuo... 22,248071/01384 821165.

HONDA JAZZ S 1.2, hatchback, 05 reg, orange, MoT July 2012, tax till December, 2 lady owners, 23,750 ono. 07894 823478.

MAZDA 2 2010, 1.3 special edition, 5dr Hatch, Aurora blue, 3,500 genuine miles, pristine condi-

5dr Hatch, Aurora blue, 3,50 genuine miles, pristine condition, £7,450. 07756 699105.

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AC, CD. £2,495 ono. 07979 784585
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220 CDI, Estate, metallic blue
56 reg, FSH, full leather, showroom condition, fully loaded
35,000 miles, MoT

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2002, 137,000 miles, black, abs air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas,

diesel, tax alloys, CD, spots, part leather £4 750 ono

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Black, 64,000 miles from
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throughout, Tax, MoT.

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Please telephone for more details 01902 345253 or 07909 335318. MINI ONE 1.6, 54 reg, 43,500 miles blue, e/w, e/m, a/c, fsh, tax and MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, £5,500 ono. 07974 327462.

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DIESEL September 2008, cafe latte colour, 14,000 miles.

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IISAN FIGARO 1991, grey / cream leather, 78k, long MoT & tax, lady owner, very good condi-tion £3,950 ono. 07960 791936. NISSAN MICRA 1.2S, 53 plate, 3dr, red, 80K, FSH, PAS, AC, Full MoT

and electrics, excellen-tion, £1,595, 01902 750059



54 plate, 80,000 miles, fsh Harmen Karden sound system Harmen Karden sound system and TV. Heated front and rea teather seats. MoT and tax Dec



2003 (53), white with blue cloth Interior, 67,500 miles, MoT May 2012, Tax Febuary 2012. 1.5 Diesel (only £35 Road Tax). Good condition.

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RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Extreme, 05. blue, 42k, fsh, trip computer, tax, MoT, very good condition, £2,950. 01562 882391 - 07715 630807.



one careful owner from new, FSH, (serviced under 1 year, only done 600 miles since). New one year MoT. Taxed till end October 2011. 12,500 miles only. Immaculate condition.

RENAULT CLIO Dynamique 04, 1.2, taxed, MoT'd, ideal first car very good condition, £1,950 ono.

ery good condition 07905 139674. Sec U/1905 139674. Sedgley. RENAULT MEGANE Cabriolet 2005, 47,000 miles, black, AC FSH, long MoT, tax, alloys, petrol. 07854 839323, £3,800 ono 01902 336904

RENAULT Megane Cabriol Drivilege+(52),silver, AC,le Privilege+(52), silver, AC, leather alloys, 50,700 miles, full MoT, Tax CD. £1,850. 07890 025585.

RENAULT MEGANE Expression 03 reg. 88,000, 5 door, blue, Mo'l metallic paint, full spec, sunrooi tax, alloys, CD, spots, petrol £2,000 ono. 07866 662786.

RENAULT MEGANE Oasis Estate, VVT 16v, petrol, 2005, 52K, 11 months Mot, 6 months tax, £3,000 ono, 07754 838585.

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RENAULT MEGANE Oasis Estate,
VVT 16v, petrol, 2005, 52K, 11
months Mot, 6 months tax, £2,800
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ono. 07754 838585. RENAULT MEGANE Priviledge 2005, 2.0 16v, excellent condition red. 1 owner. MoT / Tax. £2,800 ono. 01902 448567 / 07599 038047

1.6 16v, 2006, 36,500 miles, metallic 10v, 2006, 36,300 miles, metallic blue, full electrics, air con, alarm, tax and MoT, central locking, alloys, 6 disc changer, LCD display. E3,800 ono. 07595 946867.



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1999 reg., Leather trim and body almost like new. 50,000 miles. One driver, one owner

2009, Exclusive, Sat Nav, 18,420 miles, white, abs, electric

rindows, air con, fsh, just ser eed, alarm, central lockin

07827 843865

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2009, Diesel, only 7,500 miles, grey pearl, heated leather seats, alloys, CD player, Taxed April 2012. £11,995 o.n.o. 01902 620478.

VW POLO 1.2, 3dr, 06 reg, 6 m tax, 11 months MoT, nice £2,800 ono. 01902 743666.

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E595, 01384 242222, 01000 2002.1. CITROEN XSARA Picasso 1.6 petrol, X reg, 2000, MoT March 2012, tax Dec 2011, 1950 ono. Dudley 01384 242195. DAEWOO MATIZ 1000CC, 2004, 5dr, green, 37,000 miles, MoT and

62,472, £1,000, 01902 6838699.

FIAT SECIENTO SPORTING
02 reg, 62,000 miles, MoT, PAS
yellow, history, Lovely condition
£1,295, 07413 347911.

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and MoT, £695 ono. 07407 63567
FORD FIESTA FINESSE 1.2,
door, 2002, 57,000 miles, blac
Dynamics alloys, Lexus ligh
MoT March 2012, £1,195 ono.
07790 008859.

FORD FIESTA Finesse 1.3, green 5dr. 2000, 48k, MoT. 9 months tax

FORD KA 51 reg, silver, 9 months MoT, Taxed, CD player, excellent condition, recently serviced. Bargain £995 ono. 07980 394239.

FORD KA2, 1998, R reg, tax Sept 2011, MoT April 2012, 102,000 miles good condition inside and

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA X, 2001. 80k miles, MoT, tax Jan 2012, elec-tric heated leather seats, new tyres, mature owner, £1,050 ono. 07961 866051.

07/193 046008.

FORD PUMA Millenium edition build no 353, 2000, fsh, leather Recaros, Mot, bargain, £1,075 01952 253009 or 07767 307516.

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1991, with porch awning immaculate condition.
Many extras.

Many extras. £1,150. ono. Telephone 01902 685612. FAMILY TOURING

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berth, lovely condition throughout, very spacious with full awning

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# **Sport**

## Two make hundreds in one-sided victory

CHAMPIONS Stourbridge crushed pointless Oldswinford in **Division One** of the Worcestershire Cricket League with hundreds from Josh Banks and Audy Alexander, after previously having only one centurion this season.

Pershore stayed second with a win over similarly pointless 2 points with one game left.

Pershore stayed second with a bar ould only draw with Monmouth, by crushing pointless Romsley.

In **Division Thre** Rushwick after a winning draw that ended leapfrogged Nomads to go third by crushing pointless Romsley.

In **Division Thre** Rushwick after a winning draw that ended leapfrogged Nomads to go third by crushing pointless Romsley.

## **TEN-MAN STOUR GRAB A LATE WIN**

Stourbridge 2 Chesham United 1

TEN-MAN Stourbridge staged a stunning fightback in the

Is the last quarter of an hour to snatch an unlikely victory.

The Glassboys looked to be heading for their first defeat of the season on Saturday when, already trailing 1-0, they had Sean Geddes sent off in the 70th minute for lashing out at Bruce Wilson.

However, being a man light appeared to spur the hosts into life and two late goals sent the home crowd away in a state of bemused delight.

straight of the final lap.
Cockle's three heat wins represented the biggest threat from Lynn, while Lewis Blackbird grabbed a couple too. Like Cockle, he won his double-point tactical ride – with the black and white helmet perhaps more of a magpie than a Blackbird – but his dice with Ashley Morris to do so, which took place in heat 11 with the conditions arguably at their worst, did both of them great honour.

Criaf

Grief

Grief

They were wheel to wheel on the third and fourth corners on three of the four laps without ever looking likely to come to grief.

Morris, captain in the injury absence of more seasoned campaigners, also had to shoulder the responsibility of the number five racejacket and his paid 13 featured a super win from the back in heat four and continued the return to form signalled by his nine points in the National League Riders Championship at the weekend.

Also back on the button were the styllish Darryl Ritchings and the racy Tom Perry, while Jamie Courtney produced a rock solid paid 10 and Danny Stoneman grafted hard for his third places.

Dudley: Adam Allott 12, Tom Perry 11+3, Ashley Morris 11+2, Darryl Stoneman 3-1.

Darny Stoneman 3-1.

Darny Stoneman 3-1.

Ewes Blackbridg, Lewis Kar4+, 1 Tom Stokes 4, Oliver Rayson 3, Scott Campos 2+1.

## It's double joy for Heathens in the slush

Dudley 57 King's Lynn 39

DUDLEY got their double desire at "Monmore Wood" — victory and a clean bill of health.

Those may not seem lofty ambitions, but after a torrid post-Fours run of six defeats in seven speedway matches which has seen nasty injuries for Adam Roynon, Richard Franklin, Jon Armstrong and Kyle Newman, the Heathens were happy to take what was on offer.

Lynn produced glimpses of spirited opposition in wet and slushy conditions on Tuesday night — it was only the track staff's Trojan toiling which got the match on at all — but Dudley were superior in pretty well all departments. Guest Adam Allott, who had notched a five-ride maximum for Buxton at the circuit last week, added a further four victories to be unbeaten again — but this time in the red helmet colour of the home side.

e home side.
Allott displayed the family sharpness at the tapes – and was allowed a criminal flier in heat 13 – but there's more to him than just a quick clutch hand. He had to work very hard indeed to get past James Cockle in heat six but managed it on the back straight of the final lap.
Cockle's three heat wins

## It's tough for DK in opener

Dudley Kingswinford 7
South Leicester 20
DUDLEY Kingswinford were given a sharp reminder of just how tough their new division would be as they slipped to defeat at home to South Leicester.

DK last year's Midland One West champions, were missing key players and found South Leicester tough opponents in the National League Three Midlands opener.

DK took the lead when scrum half Jordan Brookes scrum half Jordan Brookes squeezed through the nar-rowest of gaps for an opening try, converted by Jon Higgins.

But the home side were conceding too many penal-ties and soon after Mark Ward pulled the score back to 7-3.

Increasing pressure from the visitors resulted in a fine try by their dynamic left wing Kyle Coltman, converted by Mark Lord.

South Leicester added another try when second row Stuart Bale strolled in between the posts, again converted for a 17-7 lead at half time. Rikki Aley landed a long penalty in the second half to end the scoring.

The Stourbridge Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford on Thursday, September 8, 2011. d delight.

In a generally tight opening half, Chesham made the brighter start and carved out the first chance of the afternoon in the seventh minute as a ball in from Scott Thomas was touched on by Dave Fotheringham.

However, Simon Thomas could not keep his volley down and his effort flew over.

could not keep his volley down and his effort flew over.

Stourbridge were slow to get going although better play on 18 minutes saw Aaron Griffiths deliver a testing cross from the left that was pushed away by visiting keeper Shane Gore under pressure from Ryan Rowe. The ball fell to the feet of James Dyson, but Gore did well to parry the ensuing shot.

Three minutes later Chesham full-back John Kyriacou tried to catch out Lewis Solly with a quickly taken free-kick from distance. The back-pedalling keeper appeared to touch the ball over the bar, but a goal-kick was given.

Stourbridge then created the best chance of the first period in the 29th minute as Geddes pass was deflected into the path of Leon Broad-hurst on the edge of the box who struck his low shot past Gore's left-hand post.

Two minutes after the restart, however, the Buckinghamshire visitors broke the deadlock. An excellent cross from the right by Kyriacou enabled Leon Archer to rise at the far post and direct a header back across Solly and into the opposite corner.

#### Response

Stourbridge looked for a response and on 54 minutes a Geddes free-kick was met by Broadhurst, whose downward header lacked sufficient power.

Three minutes later Chesham almost added a second with Solly forced to make a parried save to his right to keep out a drive from Fotheringham.

Stourbridge were staring into the abyss with 20 minutes left when Geddes was dismissed after clashing with Wilson.

was dismissed after clashing with Wilson.
However, five minutes later the Glassboys grabbed an equaliser. Ben Billingham swung over a cross that caught the Chesham backline cold and Rowe stole in to glance a close-range header inside the far post. Stourbridge would have been happy with a point, but secured all three five minutes from time as an Aaron Drake through ball released Linden Dovey away down the middle and he skipped past the onrushing Gore before slotting the ball into the empty net to round off a remarkable turnaround.

## Try of the match is little consolation



Centre Tom Jarvis looks to break a tackle in Saxons' home loss to Macclesfield

A WONDERFUL Nathan Bressington try and a last gasp bonus-bagging score from Ben Hughes proved little

score from Ben Hughes proved little consolation for Stourbridge as visitors Macclesfield took the spoils. Looking to bounce back from last week's opening day defeat at Tynedale, the Saxons made the perfect start when Mark Woodrow kicked two penalties inside the opening eight minutes. But Macclesfield full-back Poss Whinney

But Macclesfield full-back Ross Whinney duly bagged a try, conversion and penalty to edge the visitors into a four-point lead midway through the half.

Matt Williams jinked his way over from 15 yards to nose the Saxons into a slender one-point lead but this just signalled a Macclesfield resurgence as they ran in two further tries before the break.

#### Stourbridge Saxons 31 Macclesfield 49

Mantell dived over as the visitors made the most of a series of late scrums.

Whinney slotted over one of the conversions but that kick was trumped by an audacious 40-metre drop goal by Woodrow. The visitors extended their 22-14 interval lead within three minutes of the restart when Ed Stobart darted in on the overlap with Whinney kicking the extras.

For the next 20 minutes, each side tried to take control in turn before the visitors finally eased clear.

Saxons skipper Liam Wordley was driven over for his third try in two games to close the gap to 10 points – Woodrow's kick hitting the upright – only for excellent Mac-clesfield scrum-half Charlie Mulchrone to

## **Openers** both hit a ton as Stourbridge go run crazy

Stourbridge 332-2, Oldswinford 120. Stourbridge won by 212 runs NEW Worcester League champions Stourbridge celebrated in style with a massive victory over Oldswinford.

Batting first Stour survived some early scares prompted by tight bowling but went on to post their highest score of the season.
Oldswinford secured the wickets of Matt Bradley and Steve Game to leave Stour 76-2.

76-2. But Josh Banks and Audy

But Josh Banks and Audy
Alexander each hit an
unbeaten century to swing
the match.
Openers Bradley and
Game faced testing opening
spells from Sebastian
Soukup and Daud Islam
with Game surviving a nick
in the slip cordon off the
former, writes Harilal
They battled through
until Bradley presented an

former, writes nartial
Patel.
They battled through
until Bradley presented an
easy catch at point off the
bowling of Soukup for 14
with the total on 31. Game
followed in the 21st over for
31 with the total on 76.
Josh Banks, strong in
defence, worked hard not to
give his wicket away while
at the other end Audy
Alexander eased his way
through, the left-hander
playing excellent strokes on
both sides of the wicket.

#### Smashed

They took the Stour score from 76 to 332 by the close, adding 132 runs in the final 10 overs.

adding 132 runs in the final 10 overs.

Banks smashed 26 off his final six deliveries to land his first century of the season. He finished not out on 121 with Alexander unbeaten on 130.
Oldswinford openers Lee Nightingale and Asa Robinson were, initially, not to be outdone and started the innings with powerful hitting. The first six overs produced 45 runs.
Skipper Richard Bradley brought on Kalpesh Patel and leg spinner Alexander and was rewarded immediately when Patel removed Asa Robinson for 20 with his first delivery, caught behind.

Patel struck again in his second over, taking the wicket of Nightingale for 28. Danny Attwood became his third victim in the 19th over for eight as Oldswinford fell

behind the required run

Tate.

There was a period of stalemate as Kristy Kehoe and Harry Stanier sat on the splice and Patel was replaced by paceman James Winders, having collated figures of 3-12 off 14 overs.

Winders, having collated figures of 3-12 off 14 overs.

Winders' first over yielded just one run – and his next four each produced a wicket to end Oldswinford's hopes of squeezing out a draw.

Alexander dismissed Stanier for a 14-over nine while Kehoe was caught and bowled for 24 by Winders.

The innings ended in the 42nd over to give the champions yet another 24 points to break the league records of 380 for the season.

Skipper Bradley, with Birmingham League cricket in mind for next season, will have noted Winders' performance in taking 4-17.

Stourbridge (24pts) 145, Colwall (4pts) 124. Stourbridge won by 21 runs.

Stourbridge won by 21 runs.

Stourbridge as of a remarkable victory at Colwall after tottering at 80-7.

Left-hander Ryam Willetts saved the day for the visitors, making 73 in difficult conditions.

His effort helped Stour to 145 to give the attack something at which to bowl.

J Gooch and S Coffey bagged wickets apiece for the home side.

But Stour skipper Feraz Irfan and Ali Shah made equally good use of the conditions to put Colwall under pressure.

The home side were

The home side were even-tually squeezed out for 124 in 30 overs.

Irfan took 4-43 and Shah 3-37 to give their team a welcome and unexpected 24 points to avoid a further slide down the Division Two table.

## Fallowfield blitzes his way to success

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club members sharpened up for the new campaign with their annual pre-season blitz tour-nament.

nent. The club's top player Jeremy Fallowfield won the event

The club's top player Jeremy Fallowfield won the event with a perfect score of nine wins from nine games. Jeremy's father Nic was equal second on 7.5. He tied with the in-form Eric Horwill.

The season proper starts with a tough Birmingham League Division Two match for the firsts at Lichfield. The seconds, in Division Three, travel to Solihull.

Stourbridge also field teams in the Wolverhampton and Dudley League and are trialling a side in the Worcester League for the first time this season.

The club's summer chess tournament was won by the undefeated Dave Davies with 4.5 out of five. In the deciding match in the last round he was up against tournament organiser Julie Wilson who needed a win but pressed too hard, erred and was forced to resign a few moves later. She finished equal second on three points with Don Curry.

For more club details, call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk

cone-point lead but this just signalled a Macclesfield resurgence as they ran in two
further tries before the break.

Powerful winger Josh Fowles burst
through the centre before offloading to Jack
Moorhouse on the half-hour while prop Tom

Aussie import Rovira may
be in line for starting role

EXCITING Aussie import Alex Rovira could be handed a
place in the starting line-up when Stourbridge Saxons
head for Coventry in Saturday's National One derby clash.
And he could be joined in the back row by fit again Stourton Park favourite James Rodley.

Rovira came off the bench early in the second half of Saturday's loss to Macclesfield and impressed director of
rugby Neil Mitchell. "He was certainly one of the highlights," he said. "He's a strong lad, dangerous around the
scrum, and one of those who caught the eye."

# Your regular Chronicle is inside







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Annual Report 2010 / 11

Welcome to the fifth annual report from Dudley Primary Care Trust.

The PCT spends over £500 million each year on health services in Dudley Borough. This is a great deal of money, and it works out at around £1,600 for every adult and child living in Dudley

We are responsible for buying all of the healthcare that you, as a Dudley borough resident, may need throughout your life. This includes care in hospital, care in the community from services such as district nursing or health visitors and mental health services. We also hold contracts with GPs, dentists, opticians and pharmacists.

One of our strategic objectives is to help people be as healthy as possible and to do this we offer a range of initiatives to support people to eat healthily, exercise more and have a healthy mental

On behalf of the PCT Board, we would like to thank our staff, our primary care colleagues, our many partners and all of the members of the public who have been involved with us over the year for their huge contributions. This support and involvement has been invaluable in shaping and delivering exceptional health services in what has been a challenging environment.

We look forward to working with you again over the course of the coming year to continue to improve the health and wellbeing of people in the borough of Dudley.







Dr Steve Cartwright Interim Medical Director/PEC Chair



Dudley Director of Public Health and Acting Managing Director on

## A year in numbers...

#### In 2010/11 NHS Dudley:

- Ensured 95% of patients received treatment within 18 weeks from their initial referral to outpatients
- Achieved a 42.8% per cent reduction in MRSA and hit our target to reduce hospital C. difficile rates by 42.6%
- Trained 100 Breastfeeding Buddies across the Borough to support and advise women who want to breastfeed
- Saw our volunteers clock up 1,500 hours of voluntary work between April and December 2010
- Ensured 98.8% of emergency patients were treated within 4 hours

## Highlights from our year 2010/11



## Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre opens it's doors

In June 2010, The Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre opened its doors to patients for the first time. Following a two year design and construction programme, the centre is now home to over 400 NHS and Local authority staff. Minister of State for Health, Simon Burns officially opened the centre in October 2010.

#### Your Dudley, Your Say

Dudley Primary Care Trust is always keen to hear what local people have to say about the services we commission. In July 2010 we joined forces with Dudley Council and hit the streets of Dudley to find out what matters most to our residents. Your Dudley, Your Say gathered over 230 views inside the 'Comments Campervan'.



### New GP Practice for Kates Hill

The Mayor of Dudley was the guest of honour at the opening of Kates Hill Surgery this year. The surgery located in the Kates Hill Area of Dudley is operated by Primecare and was the final practice to open as a result of the Government's Equitable Access to Primary Care Programme. As well as the service normally associated with general Practice, the surgery also offers a specific outreach facility to BME residents locally.

## **Summary Care Record launched**

Practices from across the Dudley Borough signed up for the national Summary Care Programme which sees individuals medical information uploaded onto a national system allowing access to vital information anywhere in the country.



#### Winter Weather hits borough hard

2010/11 saw extreme winter weather hit the borough. Winter is always a busy time of year for NHS services, but this year saw unprecedented demand for services. Thanks to the efforts of NHS staff from Dudley Primary Care Trust, DGOH and Dudley Community Services local residents continued to get the high level of care they required.

## Young people told to 'Think Pharmacy'

In March 2011, Derek the Hip Hop Pharmacist launched a campaign to promote the services offered in pharmacies across the borough to 16 – 24 year olds. Utilising a wide range of media including facebook and youtube the campaign tackled issues such as confidentiality and lack of awareness of pharmacy services as highlighted from research conducted with over 350 young people. www.thinkpharmacy.info



## Clinicians to lead the buying of healthcare

Clinicians from across the Dudley borough were given approval from the Department of Health to move forward with plans to take the lead in buying healthcare services for local residents. Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group were among the first 52 from across England selected to be to take on commissioning responsibilities as part of the Government's plans set out in the NHS White Paper Liberating the NHS: Equity

## Our finances

With responsibility for over £500m of public money the PCT has achieved all statutory financial targets for 2010/11. This has been at a time of significant demand on health services and the desire to develop services to meet key health plans.

The PCT achieved all statutory and non-statutory financial duties in 2010/11 as set out below:

#### Statutory

Remain within the Revenue Resource Limit achieved £794,000 surplus Remained within Capital Resource Limit achieved £7,000 surplus.

#### Non-Statutory

Better Payment Practice Code – pay suppliers invoices by the due date or within 30 days of receipt achieved – exceeded the 95% target.

Ensure Provider Services achieve full cost recovery achieved surplus of £468,000.



In 2010/11 the PCT spent £510,406,000 an increase of 5.2% compared to 2009/10. After taking account of technical adjustments associated with the revaluation of assets to a Modern Equivalent Assets (MEA) basis in line with national policy, the net increase in expenditure was 2.9%.



## During 2010/11 the PCT increased expenditure in a number of areas, some of which were:

Increased investment in a new Health and Social Care Centre within Brierley Hill - £2.2m

Increased investment in obesity and smoking reduction initiatives - £300,000

Increased investment on drugs and devices - £2m

Establishment of community initiatives, including minor surgery and diabetes - £250,000

Despite these times of constraint, the PCT intends to invest in new services to improve healthcare in Dudley in the following areas:-

Screening of risk factors for heart conditions in the adult population - £570,000

Digital Mammography - £300,000

Investment in weight loss programmes - £205,000

Increased investment in tackling alcohol misuse - £300,000



#### Where were Dudley residents treated in 2010/11 When you need hospital treatment, you can receive this care anywhere in the UK, including from some Out of private healthcare providers. In 2010/11, people WALSALL Area NHS from the Dudley borough were treated here in WOLVERHAMPTON £4.6m the borough, in hospitals within the Midlands and beyond. This is where Dudley residents were treated last year: Walsall Hospitals £0.4m SANDWELL Royal Wolverhampton Hospital £7.6m DUDLEY Dudley Group of Hospitals £179m **BIRMINGHAM** West Midlands Hospital £3.7m University Hospitals Birmingham £8.3m **Heart of England** £1.6m COVENTRY SOLIHULL Birmingham Childrens £3m Birmingham Womens £0.9m Sandwell & West Birmingham £5.1m

## The future

#### Changes in the NHS

In July 2010, the Government published a paper called 'Liberating the NHS', which details how the NHS will change over the coming years to ensure the services provided are as patient focused as possible.

To make these improvements, the way the NHS is run is changing.

Local health staff and local communities will have more power to make decisions and fewer decisions will be taken at a national level. Local decisions on healthcare will be placed in the hands of clinicians.

From April 2013, some of the functions currently provided by the Primary Care Trust will be led by local clinicians including GPs, nurses and hospital consultants. This means that some of the money that is allocated by the government to buy healthcare services will be handed to groups of local clinicians who will decide what the best services are for local residents. This process is known as commissioning.

The National Commissioning Board will be responsible for buying specific services including those provided by GPs and it is proposed that the responsibility for Public Health will move to the Local Authority overseen by a new body called Public Health England.

#### **Developing Clinical Commissioning in Dudley**

In Dudley, GPs and other clinicians have always been involved in deciding how the budget for healthcare is spent locally, therefore staff at the PCT and local clinicians already have strong working relationships. Clinicians from across the borough have been spending more time understanding the current functions undertaken by the PCT so that they are prepared to take on their new responsibilities and in April 2011 began commissioning some areas on behalf of local people.

Dr David Hegarty is the Chair of the Dudley Health Clinical Commissioning Group and is leading the development of Clinical Commissioning here in Dudley. He is also a practicing GP in the borough.

"We are working hard to ensure that the new roles clinicians are taking on are successful and that local people continue to receive the best possible standard of healthcare here in the Dudley borough.

As the Commissioning Group develops we will begin to take on more and more areas of responsibility and have already began buying some services from local providers. We will continue commission more until we are able to take the reigns fully in 2013 when we have completed the legal process that is required to establish a statutory body."

#### **Dr David Hegarty**

Chair - Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group

#### **The Black Country Cluster**

To ensure stability until PCTs are abolished, local PCTs are being joined together to form a PCT Cluster to ensure that the important support services that the organisations currently provide can continue.

'Liberating the NHS' clearly states that PCTs will be abolished by 2013 therefore to ensure stability until this point local PCTs will be clustering to make them more robust. Dudley will join with Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton with the appointment of one Executive team for the Black Country Cluster.

In March 2011, Robert Bacon, Chief Executive at Sandwell Primary Care Trust was appointed as the Chief Executive for all four PCTs.

Dr Steve Cartwright has recently been appointed as Managing Director for NHS Dudley.

